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OPINION METER

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BUSINESS



Apple will offer two distinct versions of its latest iPhones—a cheaper model and "the gold standard."

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Muslim rebels holding hostages in the Philippines are demanding international mediation.

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Judge denies Crisostomo's bid to change venue of his trial. PAGE 5

Submerged lands, wage delay bill goes to Obama

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

President Barack Obama's signature on a U.S. Senate bill that passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday (Wednesday Saipan time) is now the only thing left before the CNMI finally gets to control the seabed 3 miles out from the coast of each of its 14 islands, as well as a delay in the 50-cent increase in minimum wage set for Sept. 30 this year and in 2015.

If Obama signs S. 256 into law, the CNMI's minimum wage stays at \$5.55 an hour until Sept. 30 next year.

A presidential approval will also pave the way for the CNMI to become the last U.S. coastal state or territory to own its offshore lands.

S. 256's passage was a surprise victory for the CNMI, considering that the U.S. Congress has only nine legislative days before the end of fiscal year 2013 to tackle issues such as the authorization of force in Syria, a continuing resolution for fiscal year 2014 spending, debt ceiling and immigration reform, among other things.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) managed S. 256 for the Democrats during floor

» **Islands also hail president's naming of OIA assistant secretary**



ESGR WEEK AND DAY OF SERVICE

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, second from left, signs a proclamation yesterday morning on Capital Hill declaring Sept. 9 to 13 "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week." In photo are, from left, Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, Inos, ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee State Chair David Sablan, and Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero. The governor also signed a proclamation declaring Sept. 11, 2013, a "Day of Service and Remembrance" to honor those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, and ordered the immediate lowering of U.S. and CNMI flags at half-staff until sunset yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'SHARKS, BLOODSUCKERS, VAMPIRES, AMBULANCE CHASERS'

Johnson lawyers' bills raise howls

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» **Some senators urge retirees to opt out of settlement deal**
» **Governor, others caution against opting out**

Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) and Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) yesterday called on retirees to opt out of the tentatively approved NMI Retirement Fund settlement agreement, describing the lawyers for plaintiff Betty Johnson as "sharks," "bloodsuckers," "vampires" and "ambulance chasers" for their attorneys' fees

and costs of some \$36 million.

"It's just insane," Reyes said at yesterday's Senate session.

Reyes said the Fund would be bankrupt much faster than expected, and instead of

these millions of dollars helping the retirees, they would instead go to lawyers.

See JOHNSON on Page 4

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Local

San Antonio shops' business going south as floodwaters go up

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Several businesses in San Antonio were deluged with floodwaters last Tuesday following heavy rains—a common occurrence for about six or seven years now due to what residents say is the clogged drainage sys-

tem in the area. The affected portion of the village is the stretch of Beach Road from Mai Thai Spicy Restaurant to Ador Restaurant.

While DPA Car Mart and Toha Super Market were essentially dry despite the rain, employees of establishments like Mai Thai Spicy Restaurant,

Ador Restaurant, Bonds Computer, Pacific Realty Management Corp., Royal Crown Insurance, Rajamsbelle Auto Shop, and Supersaver Auto Parts had to wade through 6 to 8 inches of floodwaters last Tuesday.

Saipan Computer owner Komgish Tannaken said that flooding in the area has been go-

ing on since six or seven years ago. He said the drainage on the side of the road is clogged and water essentially remains the same level for an hour or two after the rains stop.

Tannaken said flooding is bad for his business because customers quickly drive off once they see the water building up in his company's parking lot.

Royal Crown Insurance's Ludy Quinto said the flooding doesn't only turn off potential customers of her company but also pose a health risk for the company's staff and village residents. Quinto said she wants authorities to not only find out what's been causing the flooding but also to make it stop.

Rajamsbelle manager Jopay Young said work at her auto shop always comes to a standstill whenever the waters come in. Last Tuesday she had to order her employees to stop work for about 3 to 4 hours because the floodwaters entered their auto shop.

Willie Dogillo of Super-

saver Automotive Parts said the regular flooding has also physically ruined their flooring and furniture.

A staff of Mai Thai Spicy Restaurant said they get zero customers when heavy rain starts because it tends to make a mini pool of their parking lot.

Henry Hofsneider, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores' adviser, said that while they're willing to help, the Department of Public Works is the agency responsible for flooding in the highways.

"DPW has made it clear that it is the only department that has the authority to do or not to do things within the boundary of all primary rights-of-way, i.e., main roads. Since that is also clear to us, we will not attempt to do anything that will infringe on DPW's areas of responsibility."

Hofsneider said if flooding threatens privately owned lots because drainage systems located within the rights-of-way are clogged, it should be DPW that takes care of the flooding.

"This is exactly what I told

one concerned resident who called me today about a problem drainage near the Martha's Store in Garapan. He said employees of nearby businesses were out again today to attempt unclogging drainage in the area and he thought the government should be out there to do it, not the employees of private businesses. He said he would give DPW a call and ask them to come out and clean the clogged drainage system."

DPW Secretary Martin Sabilan said he sympathizes with the owners and employees of affected businesses but that his agency wasn't notified about the flooding problem in San Antonio and only got wind of it when interviewed by the *Saipan Tribune*.

He said he would look into the problem but also added that DPW is working on a new project that will rehabilitate and modernize the drainage system of Beach Road from the American Memorial Park in Garapan to the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.



MARK RABAGO

Bonds Computer owner Komgish Tannaken shows the height of the floodwater that brought business activity to a standstill in this portion of San Antonio last Tuesday.

Cangco pleads guilty, says she burned herself

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Evelyn Duenas Cangco, a 49-year-old woman accused of lying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation that a Chinese man set her on fire in San Antonio, pleaded guilty yesterday as part of a plea deal with the U.S. government.

"I burned myself," Cangco said when asked by U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Ramona V. Manglona to tell the court in her own words what she did.

The offense of making a false statement to the FBI carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, a three-year period of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment.

Cangco will be sentenced on Jan. 24, 2014, at 9am.

She was allowed to remain free until her sentencing.

David Banes served as court-appointed counsel for the defendant.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami

Badawy did not object to maintaining Cangco's release but expressed concern about Cangco's mental competency.

The defendant admitted that she is currently undergoing medical treatment and counseling at the Community Guidance Center for depression and anxiety.

Manglona said that although there is a concern for Cangco's mental competency, there is no evidence that she is suffering from some type of mental illness.

Cangco told the court that she lied to the FBI about the fire case but that she was not lying about somebody sexually harassing her in a separate incident.

In citing the factual basis of the plea agreement, Badawy said that Cangco lied to the FBI on April 2, 2013, when she stated that an unknown Chinese man shoved her from behind and threw gasoline on her back on March 26, 2013, in front of the San Antonio Market.

The prosecutor said that Cangco stated that she struggled

with her assailant, who was holding a green lighter in his hand. He said Cangco stated that the man then ignited the lighter and set her on fire before fleeing on foot, heading south on Beach Road.

Badawy said the defendant made these statements to FBI special agents on April 2, 2013, before admitting that the statements were false.

Badawy said that Cangco later admitted to filling a jar with gasoline from a can at her home before driving to the San Antonio Market, where she doused herself with gasoline, then lit herself on fire.

Police investigation showed that Cangco was admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center for second-degree burns on both hands and her entire back.

Police said Cangco ran into the store, screaming for help. Store employees said she had no shirt on and was wearing only a bra and that her pants were on fire. The employees extinguished the flames and called 911 for police assistance.

FOA schedules auditions for next production

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FOA schedules auditions for next production

The Friends of the Arts will be presenting Larry Shue's *"The Foreigner"* on October 25, 26 and 27. The 1884 play is a comedy with a rustic air that has won two Obie Awards and two Outer Critics Circle Awards, including Best New American Play and Best Off-Broadway Production.

Several of the seven roles remain to be filled. Interested performers and would be performers, male or female of all ages, are invited to try out. Auditions will be held at the Dolphin Theater in Marianas High School today, Sept. 12, from 7:30pm to 9pm. Come and try out for the play!

Hopwood PTSA meeting today

This is to inform the general parent community of Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High School that there is going to be a PTSA meeting today, Sept. 12, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. Hopwood is encouraging all stakeholders to attend this very important meeting. For more information, call Hopwood at 989-9218 or 483-9219. (PR)

CRA meeting this Friday

Commonwealth Retirees Association chair Lorenzo Cabrera is calling a general assembly for members on Friday, Sept. 13, at Marianas High School gymnasium. Meeting will start at 6pm and will discuss issues pertaining to the Retirement Fund, including the latest filings in court. Members are encouraged to attend the assembly. (PR)

DEQ brigade to take part in 28th ICC

The Division of Environmental Quality's Cleanup Brigade will deviate from its regular first Saturday of the monthly beach cleanup brigade in order to join the Coastal Resource Management's celebration of the 28th Annual International Coastal Cleanup, which is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 20, and Saturday, Sept. 21, on Saipan. Rota will be participating on Sept. 20 and Tinian will be hosting theirs on Sept. 18. If you would like to volunteer, contact a CRM ICC coordinator to sign up.

■ Saipan coordinator: Nicole Schafer, 664-8312

■ Rota coordinator: Bill Pendergrass, 532-0466

■ Tinian coordinator: Edwin Hofsneider, 433-0494

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. (DEQ)

Notice of NRCS public meeting

A USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Technical Committee Meeting will be held for the Pacific Islands Area on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013, from 9am to 11am, at the following video teleconference site: USDA NRCS West Area Office, 770 East Sunset Blvd., Suite 260, Barrigada, GU 96913. Contact the Saipan Field Office at (670) 233-3415 for more information. (PR)

Military training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 today, Sept. 12, from 2pm to 9pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated above.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. (PR)

Pre-retirement training for reservists

The 63rd Regional Support Command and 9th Mission Support Command, Theater Support Group, U.S. Army Reserve, are scheduled to host a pre-retirement training brief event for Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers, Sept. 21, at the Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe. Presenters from military service centers, Veteran Affairs and various military transition organizations will discuss topics about TriCare/dental options, VA and educational benefits, retirement pay, and much more as they pertain to Guard and reserve soldiers. Registration is from 7:30am to 8am. Briefing is from 8am to 5pm.

To register, visit <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=167136&k=036745087851>. Point of contact for TSG Detachment Marianas is SFC Joe M. Falaminiano at (670) 322-6671 or Joe.m.falaminian@mail.mil. (PR)

\$123.4M 'compromise' budget bill now with governor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Power outage delayed but didn't stop the Senate and House of Representatives from discussing and eventually passing during yesterday afternoon's back-to-back sessions a "compromise" \$123.4-million budget bill that's now on Gov. Eloy S. Inos' desk. No government shutdown is expected.

The governor, in a brief interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said he has 20 days to review the fiscal year 2014 budget bill that would come out of the Legislature.

Fiscal year 2014 begins on Oct. 1, 2013, and ends on Sept. 30, 2014.

It was the smoothest budget process at the Legislature since at least 2010 when a deadlock between the House and Senate on a 2011 budget bill resulted in a partial government shutdown. That sent home over a thousand government employees for days.

A power outage hit Capital Hill just as the Legislature was about to start its back-to-back session yesterday afternoon.

After putting off the start of the session to see whether the power would go back on, the Senate—and later the House—went ahead with their session in the dark.

At the Senate, for example, the light from some lawmakers' laptop screens, some functioning emergency lights, and a flashlight helped senators read documents and go on with the session. The sergeant-at-arms used an audio recorder to record the session during the power outage.

DFS president Marian Alldan-Pierce was the only one who stood up during the public comment period, but only to say that she's impressed that the Senate went ahead with the session even without power.

By the time the power came back on, the Senate had already passed the budget bill by a 8-0 vote. That was at 2:50pm.

At 4:02pm, the House also passed the conference report on the budget bill by a vote of 19-1, essentially passing the spending package.

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) was the only one who voted "no," citing her opposition to a provision in the compromise bill that gives the governor the authority to reprogram up to 50 percent of the budget, which is more than the 25 percent already provided for by the Planning and Budgeting Act.

At the session, Maratita said she believes the Legislature has relinquished its duties and responsibilities by giving the governor broader reprogram-

ming power and therefore defeating the purpose of check-and-balance in government.

In a later interview, Maratita said if the Legislature continues to give such concession to the governor, then the Legislature might as well close or the people could demand that lawmakers don't get paid at all.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), lead conferee from the House, said the 50 percent is only half of the authority given to the governor to reprogram up to 100 percent

of the fiscal year 2013 budget so in essence, the conferees—and the Legislature—clipped the governor's power. Sablan is the author of the original budget bill.

The House's original budget version gave the governor power to reprogram only up to 25 percent of the budget or what's already allowed under the law. The Senate's original budget version gave him authority to reprogram up to 100 percent of the budget.

The compromise—50 percent—was to ensure there is reprogramming of funds to pay the \$200,000 La Fiesta annual land lease.

House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) pointed out that the Judiciary asked for \$6.2 million yet ended up getting—based on the conference committee-recommended budget bill—\$4.392 million. He also noted how Rota and Tinian had their way with the budget.

"Yes there's always no perfect budget but it's appropriate to bring out the issues so we're reminded what we could have done differently," he said at the session, adding that he's voting for the budget because he's also mindful of the employees that would be affected should a shutdown occur if no budget is passed on time.

The House floor leader said he agrees with Dela Cruz that this is not a perfect product but one that can be approved.

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) said the Judiciary's budget may still be addressed once a supplemental budget for fiscal year 2014 is submitted.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) managed to have the budget bill passed close to the target 4pm, so that the budget measure could be transmitted immediately to the governor's office before close of office hours at 4:30pm yesterday.

The House was able to transmit House Bill 18-98, House Draft 6, Senate Substitute 1, Conference Committee Substitute 1, to the governor's office before close of business yesterday, the speaker and oth-

ers confirmed last night.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when sought for comment, said the administration "is very pleased with the Legislature's swift action on the budget bill ahead of the end of the fiscal year deadline."

"This will give the administration ample time to thoroughly review the budget to determine if any areas of concern need to be rectified. The governor and lieutenant governor applaud the lawmakers for acting diligently and in a very timely manner," he added.

Both in the House and Senate, members took turns commanding members of the conference committee for coming up with a budget bill accept-

able to both houses.

The six-member panel is led by House Ways and Means Committee chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), along with House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

The conferees worked on at least 17 items and differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget bill.

Six of those were "highly debated" but nevertheless were settled, such as the decentralized government utilities account, the reinstate-

ment of \$2 million to the Department of Public Lands for homesteads, restoration of \$200,000 to the Marianas Visitors Authority, giving the governor extra 50 full-time

equivalent positions, and giving the governor authority to reprogram up to 50 percent of the budget to be able to fund the annual \$200,000 La Fiesta land lease deal.

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JOHNSON*From Page 1*

He called on the Senate leadership to meet with the governor to discuss this, and at the same time asked whether legislation or petition could be drafted to dissuade members from opting out of the settlement deal "if that's the only way to protect retirees."

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said in a brief interview that he would like the court to give the government a chance to comment and take a position on the attorneys' fees and costs submitted to the court.

Inos said he's surprised by the amount.

"Our position is that any attorney's fees have to be paid outside of the Retirement Fund. It can't be paid within the Fund. We're challenged with having to find money from the Fund,"

Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said he agrees with the sentiments of other lawmakers that the attorneys' fees and costs are "exorbitant" and "ridiculously high" but he said making this a reason to encourage retirees to opt out of the settlement is a "scary" proposition.

The speaker said attorneys' fees and costs would have to be paid eventually, but he's hoping the court would approve an amount that is "appropriate."

"If many of the members opt out and the settlement fails, then we will be back to where we started. The Fund and the government can be sued again, and lawyers have to be hired again. And they will also ask for payment. Right now, it's up to the judge to decide what the appropriate amount would be," the speaker told *Saipan Tribune*.

the "CNMI is broke and it is incapable to settle its accounts and therefore cannot fully pay our pensions."

"It is an established fact that the government has consistently failed to show good faith efforts to pay its debts, until or unless forced to do so by multiple lawsuits. In its effort to avoid its legal obligation, constitutional, contractual, fiduciary duty and responsibility, the CNMI wasted over millions of dollars to file for Chapter 11 to avoid paying anything to the [Retirement Fund]. What assurance do we have that it will be different in the future? This pattern of lying and false promises, besides failure to do the right thing, is also well established and will continue to be so long as we have the same people in the offices. Nothing will be different," said Rayphand.

According to Rayphand, a former senator testified in court that the CNMI Legislature had never included appropriation bills to pay for the Fund, even though the issue was repeatedly discussed in the appropriation committee. "This is a horrifying scenario that could happen and so I may never receive the remaining 25 percent in the immediate future because there is no money now or will there be any in the immediate future. Deferment is the popular euphemism for reduction for pension, which is unconstitutional, pursuant to Article 3 Section 20. And so, how could this illegal agreement be enforceable? In my humble, this agreement is void *ab initio*, thus unenforceable," he added.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood preliminarily approved on Aug. 6 the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action against the NMI Retirement Fund and the CNMI government.

A hearing on Johnson's motion for final approval of the settlement agreement will be held on Sept. 30, 2013. The hearing on her petition for approval of attorneys' fees and costs will be on that same day.

Rayphand acknowledged that

He hopes that lawmakers would exercise restraint before making any accusations at this time.

Senators sought yesterday a joint meeting with the House as well as the governor to discuss the attorneys' fees and costs and their impact on the settlement Fund. He also said they "cannibalize" the Fund.

Hocog said it makes him wonder why retirees' pensions have to be cut by up to 25 percent. He hopes that this was not because the 25 percent cut or deferred payment was from the start meant to go to lawyers' fees and costs.

"It caught us by surprise," Hocog later said, adding that it's good this came out days before the Sept. 20 hearing.

During a Senate session yesterday afternoon, senators took turns bashing Johnson's lawyers for attorneys' fees and costs they described as "insane," "unreal," and "ridiculous," among

other things.

Reyes said Johnson's lawyers are "sharks attacking the Retirement Fund."

"There has to be a limit how far these [costs] could go," he said.

Hocog said the same lawyers are "vampires" and "blood suckers" for trying to dry out the Fund. He also said they "cannibalize" the Fund.

"I ask all my families who are retirees to opt out of this class action suit. It's a good thing that Sept. 20 is the deadline," he said.

Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) said he thought the lawyers were demanding too much.

"They waited until everything is locked and in place... Here we are looking for funds for the retirees. All this time, there they are. In just a few years, we will be back to where we started. We need to meet with the House to save the Retirement Fund. If

that calls for opting out so be it," he said, adding that over \$30 million in attorneys' fees and costs is "unreal."

Yumul said the government—which is expected to foot Johnson's attorneys' fees and costs—is already faced with the daunting task of finding money to pay into the settlement fund, the deferred 25 percent pension and other obligations yet "here we are picking up another tab."

Sens. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) and Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) echoed their colleagues' sentiments.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said the issue is not the settlement agreement itself, but the attorneys' fees and costs that he says are unreasonable.

"We will work hand in hand with the administration on this," he said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the administration has "serious concerns on the legal

fees filed by the Johnson attorneys involved in the settlement agreement."

"However, the governor intends to meet with the government's legal team before making any further comment. As for the concerns of lawmakers, the governor also intends to discuss these matters with them as the government prepares drawing up its response and concerns in the coming days," Demapan added.

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) said from the start, she has not supported the Fund settlement agreement.

Rep. Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Special Committee on Retirement Fund, said the proposed attorneys' fees and costs were high, but he said opting out is not the solution to the issue at hand. He also seeks joint meeting of the Legislature and the governor on the matter.

LEGAL*From Page 1*

be collected and paid for by the government—not the Retirement Fund. No final figure has been approved yet by the settlement judge.

This early, Cabrera is concerned about the "burden" and "impact" the requested amount will have on taxpayers if approved by the court.

As a taxpayer in the CNMI, Cabrera said he plans to write to the settlement judge to urge her to carefully assess the lawyers' proposal, saying it would be unfair to each and every taxpayer to pay for what he believes is a "humongous" amount.

Cabrera said he expected the legal fees of Johnson's attorneys to reach some millions but not the very high amount they are asking for.

"Before any consideration to pay that [request], the taxpayers' concerns must be heard. As an individual taxpayer, I will write to the settlement judge to air my serious concerns on this issue," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The settlement judge will make the final decision on legal fees.

Cabrera is encouraging all retirees and members to participate in an assembly on Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium to discuss this latest occurrence.

For retiree Sapuro Rayphand, the only question of whether or not the attorneys' fees are excessive will be decided by the court based on the points of legal authorities presented by the attorneys for the defendant and plaintiff.

But in his personal view, the fees being demanded by Johnson's lawyers are reasonable.

"Personally, I feel the attorneys' fees are reasonable and should be paid by the CNMI government and not by the Fund. If the government cannot do so, then the government should sell its assets, including but not limited to government real property," he said yesterday.

Rayphand acknowledged that

WAGE*From Page 1*

debate on Tuesday.

Sablan has seen his own territorial sea bills pass the U.S. House without dissent in the 111th and 112th Congresses and in the 113th Congress this May.

"I am grateful to Chairman Ron Wyden and Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, who introduced S.256 at my request and navigated the bill through their committee and through Senate approval," Sablan said in a statement yesterday.

The Inos administration separately said S. 256 is "a bold step forward" in the history of the CNMI.

"This is certainly welcome news. For quite some time now,

the Commonwealth has been pushing for a sense of equality on the issue of submerged lands in comparison to other coastal states. With this bill now

headed to the White House, this is a bold step forward in our history," press secretary Angel Demapan said.

Previously, the U.S. Senate failed to act on House-passed bills that convey submerged lands to the Marianas.

"I also want to thank the Republican and Democratic leadership, who found a space for S. 256 in the very crowded House agenda this week. With only nine legislative days in September and votes on authorization of force in Syria, a continuing resolution for fiscal 2014 spending, the debt ceiling, immigration, the farm bill reauthorization—all needing attention—I know there was intense competition for floor time," Sablan said.

S. 256 passed the U.S. House by a vote of 415-0 on Sept. 10, over a month since the U.S. Senate passed it on Aug. 1. The bill now goes to Obama for action.

The CNMI is currently the only U.S. coastal jurisdiction

without ownership of its offshore areas, which can be leased for economic activities and managed to preserve environmental resources.

"I very much appreciate the help of Chairman Doc Hastings and our new Ranking Member Peter DeFazio at the Natural Resources Committee, and Chairman John Kline and Ranking Member George Miller at the Education and the Workforce Committee. They all worked together once S.256 passed the Senate a month ago to make sure that we could quickly get a vote on the bill in the House. Their assistance reflects a longstanding tradition of treating territorial issues as essentially nonpartisan. And their cooperation certainly helped the Northern Mariana Islands today," Sablan said.

Minimum wage hike delay
S. 256, if enacted into law, delays the CNMI's annual 50-cent increase in minimum wage this year and in 2015.

The minimum wage will still go up on Sept. 30, 2014, from the current \$5.55 an hour to \$6.05 an hour, and then in 2016 to \$6.55 an hour, and every year after until reaching the federal minimum wage floor of \$7.25 an hour in 2018.

Congress previously authorized a deferment in 2011.

Sablan said rescheduling of minimum wage is "one of the toughest decisions" he has had to make in his five years in Congress.

"Minimum wage has gone up 82 percent since 2007. That's a very sharp increase. Labor costs for businesses have risen 16.5 percent on average year after year, even when sales have gone down. I want to see more money in workers' pockets. But I have to be a realist, too. Slowing down the wage increase was just a very difficult decision," he said.

Sablan said new data on gross domestic product in the CNMI compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis is expected this year, while the U.S. Gov-

ernment Accountability Office has begun work on a report on the impact of minimum wage due out early next year.

"If new data and the GAO analysis show that our economy can afford a higher minimum wage," Sablan added, "then there is certainly nothing to stop the Northern Mariana Islands Legislature from raising the minimum wage in 2014. The federal minimum is just that: a minimum. Many states have a minimum wage that is significantly higher than the federal level," the delegate said.

For days, CNMI employers and employees had already been bracing for a possible increase in minimum wage on Sept. 30 because of new issues before Congress in such a limited time.

"But this is not the time for celebration," he said in a phone interview. He said a one-year delay will help businesses cope with the increased cost of doing business in the CNMI, including another possible increase in utility rates.

Obama's OIA appointee

U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell also applauded yesterday Obama's intent to nominate Guam-born Hawaiian Esther Puakela Kia'aina to serve as Interior assistant secretary for insular areas.

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Kia'aina would lead the Interior's efforts to coordinate federal policy for Guam, the CNMI, the U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

She would also have the responsibility to administer and oversee federal assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau.

"Born in Guam to Native Hawaiian parents, Esther brings extensive expertise and a keen understanding of the issues fac-

ing the U.S. territories and the freely associated states. As a resident of Hawaii with strong connections to Pacific islands and experience on Capitol Hill, she will be a tremendous asset to this Department as we continue the collaborative progress we are making to strengthen the health, safety, and welfare of the Insular Areas," Jewell said.

She currently serves as the first deputy director of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Delegate Sablan also congratulated Kia'aina on her nomination.

"Ms. Esther Kia'aina is someone I have known since my days working in Congress for Senator Daniel K. Inouye in the 1980s. She is a person of proven ability, having served as chief of staff for two Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Robert Underwood of Guam and Ed Case of Hawaii. In addition to this considerable Washington experience, as a Native Hawaiian, Ms. Kia'aina is someone who understands the Pacific region and who is familiar with my district, the Northern Mariana Islands. This background and expertise make Ms. Kia'aina a solid choice to fill the position of Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas," Sablan said.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos also welcomes Kia'aina's "very likely appointment," press secretary Angel Demapan said.

"Ms. Kia'aina is an island native with roots in Hawaii and a personal connection to our neighbor island of Guam. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge pertaining to insular policies and federal relations that will be beneficial to her oversight authority under the position of assistant secretary. The Commonwealth is pleased that the president will be appointing someone with such caliber and passion for the islands," Demapan added.

Kia'aina, 50, may be the permanent replacement for Tony Babauta, a native of Guam. Babauta resigned on Feb. 1 this year.

Judge denies Crisostomo's bid to change venue of his trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho denied yesterday defense counsel Janet H. King's motion to change the trial venue for Joseph A. Crisostomo, who is facing charges in the kidnapping and murder of bartender Emerita Romero.

Camacho said that after reviewing all the news articles provided and cited by King, he found no information that is so blatantly prejudicial, such as a televised confession or smoking gun, that jurors could not leave behind in order to give Crisostomo a fair and impartial trial.

"On the whole, the nature of the publicity about this case is what one would expect to accompany a high-profile criminal prosecution," said the judge in a

10-page order.

King had asked the court to change the trial venue due to the case's extensive media coverage and community sentiment. She asserted that because of the bad publicity in the case, Crisostomo won't get a fair and impartial trial on Saipan.

During oral arguments, King clarified that Crisostomo is merely requesting that the trial proceed on Saipan but that the jury pool should be composed of Tinian and/or Rota residents.

King suggested that jurors chosen from Tinian and/or Rota could either travel to Saipan for the trial or for the trial to proceed on Tinian or Rota.

Chief prosecutor Shelli Neal and assistant attorney general Brian Flaherty represented the government in opposing the motion.

Fletcher is named permanent executive director of CUC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After serving the position in an acting capacity for months, Alan W. Fletcher was formally appointed yesterday as the new executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., besting other contenders for the post.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos announced his decision yesterday following the completion of all necessary review and requirements between the CNMI and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Fletcher

The job description of the executive director is part of a consent decree—Stipulated Order 1—between the CNMI, CUC, and the U.S. government.

According to press secretary Angel A. Demapan, the administration received 30 applicants for the position, both locally and from abroad.

All these applications, he said, were submitted by the governor to the EPA for its review. The EPA then returned with five it deemed most qualified to fill the position of executive director. The governor made his selection from there, reviewing the submission of documents and correspondences between CUC, EPA, and the interview committee.

"Upon completion of my review, it appears that the selection panel has diligently performed its task to ensure that the top candidates are capable and duly qualified to carry out the duties and responsibilities to manage the administration and operation of CUC. In an effort to move CUC ahead toward high quality standards, I have selected Alan Fletcher to serve as executive director for CUC," Inos said in a statement yesterday.

In denying the motion, Camacho pointed out that a change of venue will not necessarily ease concerns about juror prejudice caused by pretrial publicity because all three possible venues in the Commonwealth are serviced by the same news outlets, "so there is no other place to go."

However, because pretrial publicity is likely to continue, Camacho said that Crisostomo may renew his motion at a later time if necessary.

The judge, however, set precautionary measures to protect Crisostomo's right to a fair trial. He said any comments to the

press made by the Office of the Attorney General before or during trial must comply with Rule 3.6 of the American Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

Camacho said he will create a larger jury pool by issuing three times the usual number of jury summons and that he will allow extra time

for voir dire and, if necessary, will institute bench conference screening to prevent contamination of the jury pool.

Through voir dire an attorney can challenge a prospective juror "for cause" if that person says or otherwise expresses bias against the lawyer's case.



Crisostomo

In Crisostomo's motion, King provided one sample news article along with several additional news articles, blog postings, and public comment excerpts.

Camacho said his review of all the articles show that the cited pretrial publicity does not call for a finding of presumed prejudice. He said he applied the factors outlined in a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on a trial by publicity issue.

Camacho said he did not see in his review of the articles any information that is of such a nature that it would be "imprinted indelibly in the mind of anyone who watched [or] read it."

He noted that the news accounts do not include a confession or any other information of

the "smoking-gun variety."

On the issue that comments made online in response to blog posts and news articles show community prejudice, Camacho ruled that a presumption of prejudice may not be predicated on a small sample of online comments made anonymously or pseudonymously.

"The voices of a few individuals do not stand for the entire community," the judge pointed out.

The trial of Crisostomo will start on Oct. 15, 2013.

FBI agents found the body of Romero at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on Feb. 7, 2012, two days after she was last seen boarding a car near her house in Garapan.



EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE WEEK

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee State Chair David Sablan pose with CNMI government officials and ESGR volunteers after the governor signed a proclamation yesterday morning declaring Sept. 9 to 13 "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DEQ-168**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TEN (10) COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-MEDICAID-176**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2013 • TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FURNITURES AND PARTITIONS FOR THE MEDICAID AGENCY"

THE SPECIFICATION FOR THIS PROJECT MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED IN LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IF, IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ HELEN C. SABLON
MEDICAID ADMINISTRATOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

SARS
SUCCESS AUTO REPAIR SHOP
M & R CONTRACTOR/CONSTRUCTION
HEAVY EQUIPMENT RENTAL

EQUIPMENT FOR RENTAL

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- DUMPRUCK 10/15 CY
- HYDRAULIC MOWER
- GRADER
- PAYLOADER
- BACKHOE
- SWEEPER
- TRACTOR MOWER
- COMPACTOR 2 TONS

We also do land clearing and cleaning

For Inquiry please call Marj/Henry Miao
Tel. Nos. 322-1558/322-1988/483-1548
Located at Lower Base

COTA gets ideas from Calif. firm on creating transit system

Two officials of the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority recently met with executives of the Foothill Transit in West Covina, Calif., in order to learn and get ideas on how to set up a public transportation system in the CNMI.

Thomas J. Camacho, the special assistant for public transportation and chairman of the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board, and Alfreda P. Camacho, COTA's Acquisition and Oversight Management coordinator, were also given an onsite inspection of Foothill Transit's facilities.

The FTA Regional Office in San Francisco had recommended that COTA contact Foothill Transit to learn about their transit operations and maintenance system. Roland Cordero, Foot-

hill Transit's director of Maintenance & Vehicle Technology, approved Thomas J. Camacho's request for technical assistance after a meeting in San Francisco last month.

At the Aug. 29, 2013, meeting, COTA met with eight Foothill Transit executives, directors, and manager who each made brief presentations to COTA. Later that same day, both COTA officials made onsite visits and toured the Foothill Transit Arcadia and Pomona Maintenance and Operations facilities.

Thomas J. Camacho said that he and Alfreda P. Camacho were very impressed and pleased with the presentations as well as the onsite visit.

"Our expectation of the visit was highly met and really learned so many aspects of operating and



JENNIFER DOCKTER
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
PO. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff,
vs.
ANGYUTA SHIPPING
COMPANY, LTD., NOTICE OF AUCTION
FIDEL A. MENDIOLA,
FERMINA S. MENDIOLA,
FIDEL S. MENDIOLA, JR.,
CELESTES. MENDIOLA,
and the Estate of
DIMAS A. HOCOG,
JUAN M. AYUUY, and
DANIEL S. SASAKURA,
Defendants

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, CNMI Marshal, or any other person authorized by law hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title and interest of the Defendant Henry Ernest U. Hofsneider in the following described, real properties situated in Tinian, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 345 R 215, containing an area of 1,020 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 345 R 05, dated May 11, 1984, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference;

and

Tract No. 22080, situated in Mua, Rota, CNMI, containing an area of 42,813 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing Cadastral Plat No. 2004/77, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 7211, on March 1, 1978;

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at the CDA Building, First Floor Conference Room, Oleai, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 27, 2013**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid.** No minimum opening bid.

2. **Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.

3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:

a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;

b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.

4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7256, Fax: 234-7256.

5. **Deposit Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

6. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Fidell S. Mendiola, Jr., and Fermina S. Mendiola in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property or its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 21st day of August 2013.

/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

JENNIFER DOCKTER
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PO. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff,
vs.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0162
NOTICE OF AUCTION
HENRY ERNEST U.
HOFSCHEIDER,
Defendants.

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, CNMI Marshal, or any other person authorized by law hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title and interest of the Defendant Henry Ernest U. Hofsneider in the following described, real properties situated in Tinian, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Civil Action No. 11-0178,
NOTICE OF AUCTION
JOAQUIN H. BORJA and
SOOK M. BORJA,
Defendants.

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, CNMI Marshal, or any other person authorized by law hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title and interest of the Defendants Joaquin H. Borja and Sook M. Borja in the following described, real properties situated in Tinian, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

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There's still time to register for NMC's fall 2013 semester

There's still time to register for fall 2013 classes that begin Sept. 16-21 at the Northern Marianas College. Registration is open to both ongoing and new students until the last day on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013.

Students can register for the following courses that begin Sept. 16-21: Administration in Early Childhood Education, Beginning Algebra; Beginning English: Reading & Writing, Database Applications I, Desktop Publishing, Education for Parenthood, English Composition I, English Composition II, Fundamentals of Speech Communication, Guiding & Nurturing Young Children, Integrated Science & Math for Young Children, Intro. to Computers, Intro. to Literature, Medical Implications of SPED, Nutrition and Health, Reading & Vocab. Development II, Speaking & Listening Development I, Speaking & Listening Development II, Spreadsheet Applications, Walk/Jog/Run, and Writing & Grammar Study II.

For the latest NMC fall 2013 class schedule, important dates, registration procedures, and other information, visit the NMC fall 2013 Registration Information

IT&E sets Back 2 School Dance Party this Saturday

IT&E will usher in the 2013-2014 school year with a student party to trump all students parties when it hosts the IT&E Back 2 School Dance Party on Saturday night, Sept. 14, at the G.I.G. Discotheque in Garapan.

IT&E marketing coordinator Brad Ruszala said the home-grown telecommunications company is expecting between 200 and 350 students to attend the completely alcohol-free but fun-is-a-premium event.

"All signs and alcohol will be removed or covered. It's part of the afternoon fun I will have with our students and the G.I.G. staff on Saturday."

Ruszala said all high school and junior high students are invited to attend the IT&E Back 2 School Dance Party set from 5pm to 9pm.

"It's going to be great fun! We've got a great DJ, amazing raffle prizes, more prizes for the game winners, and all sorts of activities. Among the prizes are phones, service, tablets, and a huge list of contributions from our partners in the business community."

Speaking of DJs, emceeing

page at www.marianas.edu.

New students may also begin registering for courses after submitting a completed admission application form and their English and math placement test results by Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013, to the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N. For more information about placement tests, contact the Testing Center at 237-6774 or email daniel.kintol@marianas.edu.

After taking the placement tests, students can meet with their academic advisers, who will assist students complete registration forms and create class schedules.

For more information about changes to the course schedule, contact the Office of the Dean of Academic Programs & Services at 237-6706, or email APS administrative manager Shirley Blas at shirley.blas@marianas.edu.

For more information about admissions and registration, visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N, call 234-5498 Ext. 6778/6769 or email admissions coordinator Lisa Rafael at lisa.rafael@marianas.edu, or log on to www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

IMPORTANT DATES

Fall 2013 important dates for classes that begin Sept. 16:

- Sept. 12: Last day to submit admission application & placement test results (for students who have not applied)
- Sept. 12: Last day of registration for classes that begin Sept. 16, 9am-4pm
- Sept. 12: English and math placement test, 9am and 1pm, Testing Center (Building I)
- Sept. 16-21: First week of instruction
- Sept. 23-25: Add/drop course(s) days for 100-percent refund

Fundamentals of Speech Communication, Guiding & Nurturing Young Children, Integrated Science & Math for Young Children, Intro. to Computers, Intro. to Literature, Medical Implications of SPED, Nutrition and Health, Reading & Vocab. Development II, Speaking & Listening Development I, Speaking & Listening Development II, Spreadsheet Applications, Walk/Jog/Run, and Writing & Grammar Study II.

The Marianas Pacific Paddlers lent a helping hand to "Beautify My Marianas" with three cleanups on Sept. 1, 2013. Adult and junior members of the groups collected approximately 160 lbs of trash in Marpi at Wing Beach and in San Roque from Pau-Pau Beach to Palms Resort and from Aqua Resort Club to the Tanapag Social Hall.

The Marianas Visitors Authority and Saipan Chamber of Commerce, joint administrators of the "Beautify My Marianas" program, encourage all school and non-profit groups to avail of federal funding for the program before the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, 2013. The program offers \$100 for each 1-mile cleanup in assigned areas.

"It is our pleasure to help improve the environmental quality of our community and help beautify our beaches and road-sides for the benefit of everyone," Marianas Pacific Paddlers said in their report. "The additional opportunities to fundraise for our trip to the 2013 Micro Cup in Palau are an incredible

13 replacements, 4 new posts OK'd for hiring at CPA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors has approved the hiring of at least 13 personnel to fill positions that have been left vacant by resignations and retirement.

The hiring of replacements was endorsed by personnel affairs committee chair Fermín Sakisat and was unanimously supported by his colleagues at a recent meeting.

A vacancy announcement for each post is expected to be issued soon.

Saipan Tribune learned that eight CPA employees resigned from their jobs this year. These included two trainees for Aircraft Rescue Firefighting, two controller 1, three ports police trainees, and an administrative secretary. The ports authority also lost two personnel on Tinian—an ARFF trainee and a radio operator—while Rota airport needs to fill three vacant positions, including two ports police trainees and one radio operator.

As of Aug. 30, the ports authority has 192 FTEs on three islands, according to CPA

executive director MaryAnn Lizama.

Meantime, board member Barrie Toves disclosed that the Rota airport needs additional FTEs to cover safety on the island. He said there are only nine CPA personnel handling security for the Rota airport and seaport for the longest time.

"We feel that FTE at Rota is not adequate to cover safety because we have only nine ARFF personnel who are also serving as our ports police. With the flights activities, I am asking that we add at least two more FTEs for Rota-CPA," Toves

told his colleagues.

According to Toves, there are times when personnel on Rota have to work 16-hour shifts just to cover the jobs at the airport. Compared to Tinian, which has 14 FTEs, Toves said it's about time that Rota is also given an adequate number of staff.

"Please put that in consideration on the next budget [for FY 2014]," pleaded Toves.

The board later approved adding up to four FTEs for the Rota airport on the condition that there are funds available to hire the requested additional FTEs for fiscal year 2014.

Marianas Pacific Paddlers 'Beautify My Marianas'



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Junior and adult members of Marianas Pacific Paddlers braved the rain to collect nearly 160 lbs of trash in San Roque and Marpi on Sept. 1, 2013, as part of the "Beautify My Marianas" program administered by the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. The group will use funds earned to help fund their participation in the 2013 Micro Cup in Palau. Details of the program are available at www.mymarianas.com.

financial help to the club."

The group also offers to collect trash from groups and individuals along the routes and offered trash bags to picnickers

for their own use. Trash collected included household items, aluminum cans, ocean debris, food and cigarette packing, plastic, and personal items.

For more information or an application for "Beautify My Marianas" visit the MVA homepage at www.mymarianas.com. (MVA)

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting
 The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, September 19th, 2013
 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor,
 Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
 (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of August 22nd, 2013 minutes
 5. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings
 1. Conditional Use Application #2013-0270. Saipan Surfrider, LLC is requesting to construct and operate a Resort Spa and Beach Club in Chalan Kanoa. This use is classified as a Hotel and is located on lots 008 H 31/32/33/36/37/29 and 012 H 20. These areas are located north and northeast of Sandy Beach Homes and west of main Beach Road. They are zoned as Village Commercial and Tourist Resort zoning districts.

C. Communications/ Reports
D. Old Business.
 1. Update on Saipan Adult Gambling Machine Business (Poker) law of 2013, authored by Representative Ray A. Tebuteb, 18th CNMI Legislature

E. New Business
 1. Update on Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2013, authored by Representative Larry I. Deleon Guerrero, 18th CNMI Legislature
 2. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogomoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Surfrider, LLC is requesting to construct and operate a Resort Spa and Beach Club in Chalan Kanoa. This use is classified as a Hotel and is located on lots 008 H 31/32/33/36/37/29 and 012 H 20. These areas are located north and northeast of Sandy Beach Homes and west of main Beach Road. They are zoned as Village Commercial and Tourist Resort zoning districts.

Date: September 19th, Thursday

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, September 18th, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

\$6.2M exposure for NMI in Korea show

"Community Athletes," a Korean television program pitting celebrities against their ordinary neighbors, filmed two episodes in the Northern Mariana Islands this month, bringing an estimated \$6.2-million in advertising exposure to this tropical sports destination.

"Community Athletes" is produced by KBS TV, one of three major network TV chan-

nels in Korea. Under the slogan "physical exercise is like bread," the show promotes healthy and happy living. The three participating celebrities will be comedian Lee Su-Kun, male pop group Dong Bang Shin Ki (DBSK) member Shim Chang-Min, and popular MC Gang Ho-dong.

"In terms of return-on-investment, we have been able to se-

cure millions of dollars in exposure in Korea this year through several successful tie-ins with popular television shows," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bate-man. "In particular, this show will help us further promote the Northern Marianas as an ideal year-round destination for sports-minded visitors."

The Marianas Visitors Author-

ity supported the filming by providing Korean-speaking staff for facilitation and helping to secure filming permits. The filming is also supported by Saipan World Resort and Asiana Airlines.

Filming was scheduled to be conducted at Saipan International Airport, Saipan World Resort, Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, Banzai Cliff, Bird Island, and Kilili Beach Park. (MVA)

JKPL has 361 new books, other items

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library recently acquired new books and other items to augment its already extensive collection, according to circulation supervisor Ray Deleon Guerrero Jr.

In all, he said, the CNMI state library has 361 new books it catalogued in August, intended for juvenile readers to young adults and adults.

Recommended books, he

said, are *World Almanac 2013*, *Carolinian Anthology*, *Taylor Swift: Music Superstar*, *Rihanna: Music Superstar*, *Surviving Gangs and Bullying*, *Surviving Cancer, Your Beautiful Brain: Keeping Your Brain Healthy*, *Powerful Bones: Keeping Your Skeleton Healthy*, *Justin Bieber: Teen Music Superstar*, *Geometry, Wikipedia, 3.5 Million Articles*

And Counting: Using and Assessing The People's Encyclopedia, *Living a Heart-Healthy Life*, *Selena Gomez: Latina TV and Music Star*, and a bestselling book *A Child Called 'It': An Abused Child's Journey From Victim to Victor*.

"Our new collection of books will be appreciated not only by the regular patrons of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Li-

brary but [also] by those people who haven't visited their public library and have wondered what types of books and other items we release each month. It is not only to promote literacy each and everyday but [also] to inform people [of] what's new/what's up and what's happening," said Deleon Guerrero.

In August, JKPL executive director John Oliver Gonzales said the library, which is celebrating its 20th year this year, will be acquiring new e-books and audio-visual books and launching its new website in October.

He said the new e-books can be obtained through one's library card and one can have as much as 10 books to borrow for a month's period.

Gonzales said once the 30 days is up then that book disappears. If one wants to continue reading the book, he or she simply needs to come back to the library and JKPL will renew it for them.

The new website, meanwhile, will be launched in four schools: Garapan, Tanapag, Kagman, and Koblerville elementary schools, while new audio-visual books will help children become emerging readers by learning how to read with a headset and a laptop. (Saipan Tribune)

7 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged seven beaches on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are the Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, South Puerto Rico dump, Hafa Adai Beach drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Civic Center Beach, and Chalan Piao Beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages every Tuesday. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions. (DEQ)



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Coffee & Jazz Lounge Bar will host Latino Night beginning 7pm on Sept. 13. Free sangria drinks will be given to everyone who comes to the dance party.

Latino Night at Coffee & Jazz

After the tremendous success of its Salsa Night in July, Coffee & Jazz Lounge Bar will be hosting a Latino Night tomorrow starting at 7pm

Operations manager Kayoko "Kay" Irinaka said they had a lot of rave reviews when they held Salsa Night a couple of months back. She said it only makes sense to expand the repertoire of Spanish dance tunes and ballroom dances by staging Latino Night on Sept. 13.

While Salsa Night was limited to salsa, Irinaka said Latino Night will have the whole shebang—cha-cha, merengue, cumbia, salsa, mambo, bachata, reggaeton, and much more.

As an added treat, Coffee & Jazz Lounge Bar will be giving away free sangrias as a wel-

come drink to all who show up for Latino Night. Cover charge is also free and so is a dance lesson for those who want to learn the rudiments of Latin dances.

One of the newest hangouts on Saipan, Coffee & Jazz is located on the second floor of the ABC Building across DFS Galleria in Garapan.

Since opening in late May, the establishment has had a good following among the island's youth and young-at-heart. Its patrons have become fond of its preppy frapuccino, moccachino, and cappuccino blends as well as its unique dishes like pirozhki (traditional Russian soft bread) and Caesar salad.

Aside from its many brews made from the locally made and world-famous Marianas Coffee brand, Coffee & Jazz is also making a name for itself for its water-based tobacco smoking station called the hookha.

Coffee & Jazz comfortably seats 40 people and is open from 11am to 11pm everyday of the week. It is also open for private party functions for a minimum reservation of \$500 consumable food and drinks. The place boasts of high-tech sound systems and lighting.

Coffee & Jazz is also planning more party events in the future.

For more information or for reservations, call Coffee & Jazz at 233-7722. (Saipan Tribune)

CONTACT INFO

Tel: 233-7722



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 12, 2005

Hafadai Hotel returns to HANMI

After over a year of non-membership, Hafadai Beach Hotel has rejoined the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. The hotel's return to the organization was announced at HANMI's well-attended 20th anniversary celebration at the World Resort Saipan on Saturday. "We believe that HANMI is a very important organization. Now that we are under new management, we have decided to again be a member of HANMI," said Hafadai Beach Hotel general manager Hidemitsu Taguchi. HANMI chairwoman Lynn Knight welcomed the hotel's move. "I am so happy about their decision. Hafadai Beach Hotel is a significant part of the tourism industry. It is one of the biggest hotels we have in the island," she said.

Ukulele master wows Saipan

Appearing in a gray AC/DC shirt and faded jeans, ukulele master Jake Shimabukuro awed his Saipan audience of over 200, leaving them utterly mesmerized by his avant-garde musical prowess Saturday night. Shimabukuro, 28, performed at the 20th anniversary of the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas held at World Resort Hotel's Diamond Hall. "Awesome!" "Great!" "Amazing!" were the words that the audience—adult and children alike—could utter during and after the two-hour dinner concert. With lightning fast fingers, Shimabukuro played his electric ukulele in a repertoire of jazz, blues, funk, classical, bluegrass, folk, flamenco, and rock.

September 12, 2006

Rota flights continue

Continental Connection, operated by Cape Air, announced yesterday that it would continue service to Rota, effective Oct. 11, 2006. Cape Air and the Rota Resort and Spa have signed an agreement for continued air service in an effort to provide the Rota Resort and Spa a viable means of promoting Japanese tourism to the island of Rota. The current agreement with Rota Resort is through March 31, 2007, and will be renewed if there is adequate demand. Continental Connection customers will also continue to receive OnePass® miles. Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. welcomed Continental's announcement.

Firm wants to extend its power contract with CUC

The private company running the Puerto Rico power plant is appealing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s decision not to extend its expired contract. The Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp.'s contract to operate Power Plant IV expired July 31, 2006. But according to CUC spokesperson Pamela Mathis, PMIC has a pending request for a hearing on the non-extension. The independent power producer will continue to operate the power plant until the appeal is resolved. CUC will also continue to purchase fuel for Power Plant IV during this period. Power Plant IV provides back up capacity for CUC. Composed of small engines, the power plant can produce up to about 12 megawatts a day.

September 12, 2007

School allegedly sells forged licensing docs

A son of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday accused a Korean-owned school on Saipan of forging licensing documents and selling them to foreigners. Jason Fitial, who used to work as "consultant" for the American Mediscience University, furnished the local media copies of allegedly fake licenses issued to seven Koreans. The documents are virtually identical, except for the name of the recipient. They bear the Board of Professional Licensing logo and state that the recipient is authorized to practice electrical engineering in the Commonwealth. The licenses indicate Dec. 14, 2006 as issue date and Aug. 19, 2006 as date of original registration.

August tests show bacteria in 6 Saipan water systems

Tap water in six Saipan villages were found to contain coliform bacteria during tests conducted in August, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The affected villages are Sadog Tasi, Upper MIHA Housing/Garapan, Tanapag Homestead, Obyan, Koblerville/Elementary School, and South San Vicente. CUC clarified, though, that this incident is not an emergency. "If it had been, you would have been notified immediately," CUC said in a statement issued Monday. Tap water users need not boil the water or take other corrective actions.

Naval Base Guam remembers Sept. 11

By JESSE LEON GUERRERO
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SANTA RITA, Guam—Forward-deployed sailors in Guam honored the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks with the raising of colors at the U.S. Naval Base Guam headquarters in Santa Rita, Guam, on Sept. 11.

The event marked the 12th anniversary of the day when hijacked airliners crashed into the World Trade Center's North and South towers in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and a field in Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 individuals died as a result.

"We always remember. We never forget," said Capt. Mike Ward, NBG commanding officer.

Ward spoke to more than two dozen of his sailors, who gathered in the front yard for the ceremony, and shared his experience of learning about the attack while he was with his family in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, for a port call. He described Sept. 11 as "our generation's Dec. 7, 1941."

"All of us have to be vigilant all the time," he said. "It's not just security's job, protecting this base. It's everybody's job. If you see something, say something. The mindset changed on 9-11 for this country and all of us need to be part of that solution and never forget it, even though time separates us from that day."

Ward said sailors should be proud of their service to the na-

CNMI businesses reminded to complete economic census

The U.S. Census Bureau and CNMI Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division remind all businesses in the CNMI that the 2012 Economic Census is nearing completion of data collection.

A total of 1,286 questionnaires were mailed in December 2012 to businesses with paid employees. Currently, CNMI's response rate is 80 percent. For the 20 percent that have yet to submit their forms Commerce recommends the following:

■ Complete the questionnaires online following the instructions provided on the form; or

■ Mail the completed questionnaires to the address on the form.

If you need assistance, call the CSD office at 664-3045 / 3023.

Response to the economic census is required by law. Title 13, U.S. Code, requires businesses to respond to the census. By the same law, your census report is confidential.

The Economic Census of Island Areas is the major source of facts about the structure and functioning of the economy in the CNMI. It profiles the economy every five years and the data includes the number of



U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

U.S. Naval Base Guam sailors honor the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks by observing morning colors in front of their headquarters in Santa Rita, Guam Sept. 11.

serving something bigger than themselves."

NBG Command Master Chief (SW) Johannes Gonzalez recalled his experience of 9-11 as he watched from his home while deployed in Japan.

"It was an important day in our lives. It was an important day in the history of our country," he

said. "It tried us, but it also shows that the American people are willing to stand up for what is right. And, more than anything, an all-volunteer force can come in and serve and rally behind our country and our flag."

Gonzalez added that Guam's location makes it the first line of defense for protecting our na-

tion in this part of the world.

"This is it," Gonzalez said. "I've done close to eight deployments. On at least seven of them I've deployed right here to the 7th Fleet [area of responsibility]. Coming through here and realizing how important this area is, it's pretty magnificent."

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 67th birthday to my dearest, supportive and fun-loving grandma, Isabel V. Camacho! Thank you for raising me, loving me, and helping me through a lot. I love you! Greetings come from Nikki Marie C. Santos.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Esperanza Ritonja Liza-ma Santos, who is celebrating her 12th birthday today, Sept. 12, 2013! May God bless you and we wish you good health and many, many, many birthdays to come! We hope you enjoy your special day and your gifts will be coming in. We love and miss you so much! Greetings come from Mommy and Daddy Saipan, Mom and Dad Guam, Nishia, Sus, Boboy and Stace, Kika and Mart, Shawn, Ninja and Kimani.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

15TH ANNIVERSARY



Happy 15th anniversary to our amazing parents, Jeff and Pauline Roli-gat! You two show the true meaning of a strong marriage and a great amount of love. We love you! Greetings come from Nikki and Rosie.

New gambling revenue tax for Tinian eyed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) has prefiled a bill creating a new Tinian gambling revenue tax geared towards Asian-style gaming and the "high roller" premium players for which Asian casino markets heavily compete.

His House Local Bill 18-27 replaces the existing gross revenue surtax and gambling revenue tax under Section 50(3) of the Revised Tinian Gaming Control Act, with taxes geared toward "premium players" and others.

Under the bill, a "premium player" means a casino patron who opens a deposit account with the casino operator with a credit balance of not less than \$20,000.

The bill amends Section 50(3)(a) of the Revised Tinian Gaming Control Act mandating a gambling revenue tax, that is equal to 5 percent of the gross gaming revenue for the month from premium players and from gambling amusement machines used exclusively by premium players, payable on or before the seventh day of the month following the month the revenue was received.

HLB 18-27 also amends Section 50(3)(b) to require that a gambling revenue tax is equal to 15 percent of the gross gaming revenue for the month from any other (non-premium) player and from gambling amusement machines used by other (non-premium) players.

Conner, in his bill, said that adopting a tax system that provides incentives for "high rollers" to come to Tinian casinos and gamble instead of going to places such as Macau or Singapore is in the best interest of Tinian people.

"This is because we believe that establishing a tax system that attracts 'high rollers' to Tinian will result in higher revenues for Tinian casinos and higher tax revenues for the people of Tinian," the bill's findings say.

The only operating casino on Tinian—or anywhere in the CNMI—is the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Weigh Syria's offer, present evidence

The Obama administration offered a decidedly mixed reaction Monday to a suggestion that Syria might be willing to turn over its chemical weapons to international authorities to avert a U.S. military attack. For part of the day officials sounded dismissive, but as evening fell, the president himself acknowledged that the idea was, potentially, "a significant breakthrough."

It's tough to know whether the offer is a meaningful one or an eleventh-hour stalling tactic by Syrian President Bashar Assad, but there's no reason not to consider it seriously. The administration should "run it to ground," as Obama suggested he would, even as it continues to plan what it will do in the event that the proposal falls apart.

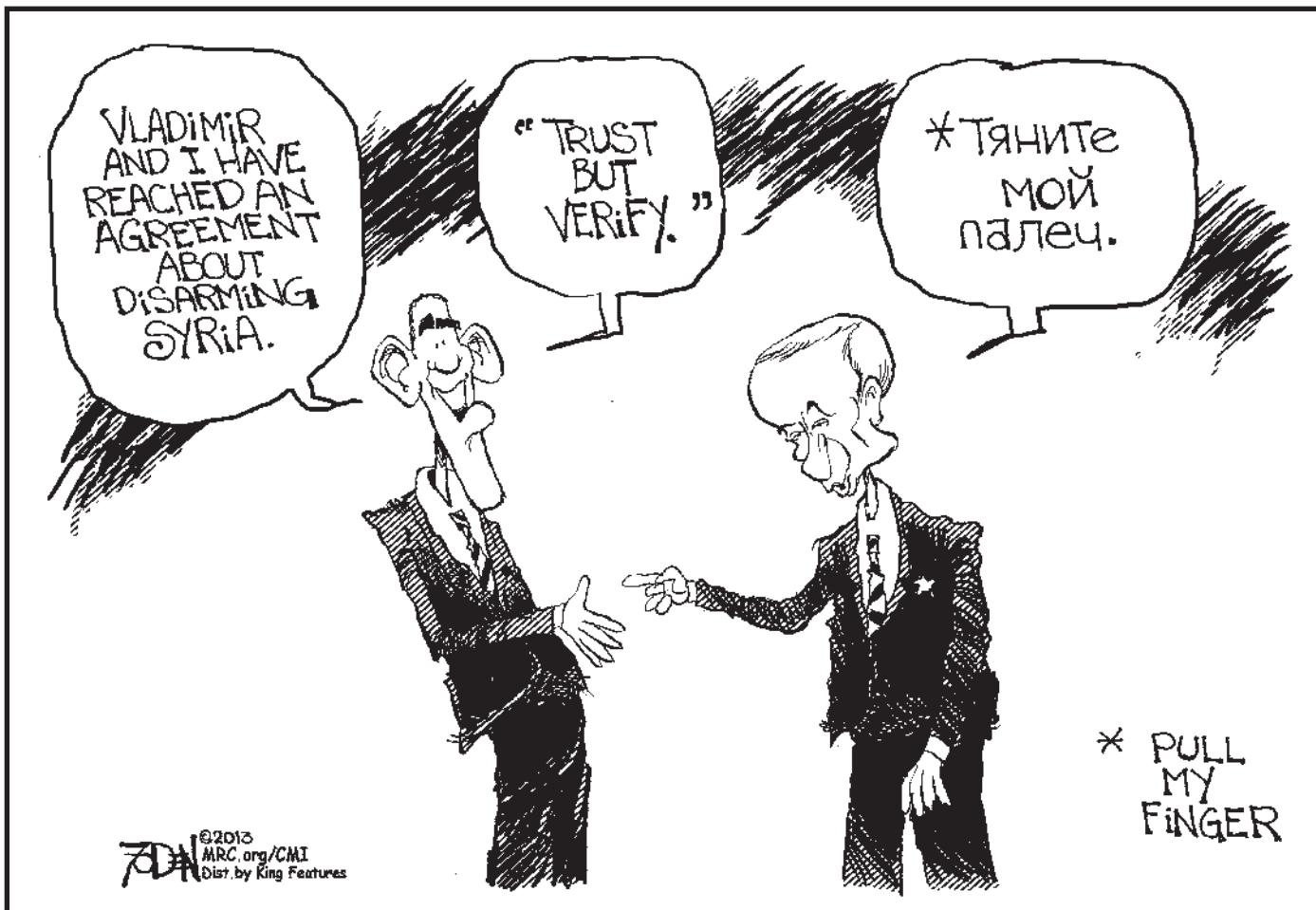
In the meantime, Obama will presumably continue his struggle to build support for a military strike, a plan that has divided the country and that faces an uphill climb in Congress. But this much is certain: The president will be more successful in that appeal if the government makes public the evidence it says it has amassed showing that the Syrian government carried out a chemical weapons attack in a Damascus suburb last month that killed hundreds of civilians.

White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough said over the weekend that the attribution of the attack to Assad passed the "common-sense test." But that won't be enough for many Americans who remember how the U.S. invaded Iraq a decade ago on the flawed assumption that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

In a speech Monday, national security advisor Susan Rice laid out the case against the Assad government: "Only the Syrian regime has the capacity to deliver chemical weapons on a scale to cause the devastation we saw in Damascus. The opposition does not. The rockets were fired from territory controlled by the regime. The rockets landed in territory controlled or contested by the opposition. And the intelligence we've gathered reveals senior officials planning the attack and then, afterward, plotting to cover up the evidence by destroying the area with shelling."

Plausible as this scenario may be, it consists of a series of assertions. If the administration is to quiet widespread doubts, it will have to declassify the conversations between government officials it says it intercepted (even if it redacted the officials' names) and also make public satellite images that it contends contain evidence of the launching of rockets from government-controlled areas and preparations by government personnel for a chemical attack.

Not every opponent of military action against Syria questions the administration's account of who is responsible for the carnage captured on those unsettling videos. Some freely accept that the Assad government, if not Assad himself, ordered the attack, but worry about the consequences of even the "limited and tailored" operation the administration says it is planning. But there are other Americans who accept the "red line" Obama laid out but aren't convinced that the Syrian regime crossed it. They're entitled to the evidence.



Obama seeks to hold the public's trust

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama wasn't just seeking Americans' support for military action in Syria. He also was seeking their trust.

Whether he earned it will not only color his response to the use of chemical weapons in Syria's civil war but also his legacy as a world leader and the success of his broader second-term priorities.

With the majority of Americans against the use of force in Syria, Obama asked them Tuesday to have confidence in his judgment as commander in chief if he launches a military strike despite their opposition. And he asked them to have faith that a president elected to end wars was still trying to find another way out, perhaps a diplomatic deal at the United Nations to secure Syria's chemical weapons.

"I know that after the terrible toll of Iraq and Afghanistan, the idea of any military action, no matter how limited, is not going to be popular," Obama said in a nationally televised address from the White House, adding that he has a "deeply held preference for peaceful solutions."

No matter the outcome of the Syria standoff, keeping the public's faith is a daunting task for Obama at a time when he's already fending off lame-duck status. With trust intact, Obama has space to maneuver on Syria and other issues. But should he lose the public's confidence, Obama would find it more difficult to wield influence on the world stage, much less persuade Congress to pass a comprehensive immigration overhaul, rally support for budget issues or build backing for critical elements of his signature health care law.

Politicians of all stripes would have little incentive to follow a weak president if the public—the people who vote for lawmakers—don't trust him.

"The president does need the American public and the broader international community to trust his judgment on this issue, which he did not choose, in order to allow them to trust him on the issues he really does choose," said Jeffrey Engel, the director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University.

Tuesday night's address wasn't the speech Obama had originally planned to give.

But rapidly moving diplomacy forced him to recast the address from one aimed at building support for a congressional use-of-force resolution to one explaining why he is spending so much time on a matter that so many Americans oppose.

"I know Americans want all of us in Washington—especially me—to concentrate on the task of building our nation here at home, putting people back to work, educating our kids, growing our middle class," he said. "It's no wonder then that you're asking hard questions."

More than 60 percent of Americans want Congress to vote against authorizing a military strike against Syria, according to a new Associated Press poll. And the opposition cuts across party lines, with 53 percent of Democrats, 59 percent of independents and 73 percent of Republicans saying Congress should vote against the plan to strike Syria.

By JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

Julie Pace has covered the White House for The Associated Press since 2009. Follow Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>



Point by point, Obama tried to address their concerns during his 15-minute address. To those who question whether it's worth taking limited action, he argued that a targeted U.S. strike "will send a message to (Syrian President Bashar) Assad that no other nation can deliver." To those who fear Assad will retaliate, he downplayed the Syrian regime's ability to threaten U.S. interests. And to those who fear a limited strike in Syria will ultimately pull the U.S. into a lengthy conflict, he said he had no interest in starting another war.

"I will not put American boots on the ground in Syria," he said. "I will not pursue an open-ended action like Iraq or Afghanistan."

Again and again, Obama's message was clear: Trust me.

More than four years into Obama's presidency, most Americans say they do—but he's lost ground on that measure since he's been in office.

According to a Gallup poll out this week, 55 percent of Americans said they saw Obama as honest and trustworthy, down from a high of 63 percent in March 2008 when he was a candidate for the White House.

The president and his advisers are mindful of the damage a further slip in those numbers could have on the remaining years of his presidency.

Obama's predecessor George W. Bush never recovered in his second term from a rapid loss of trust as the death toll in Iraq mounted and much of the intelligence used to bolster the case for war was discredited. The government's botched response to Hurricane Katrina also was a drag on Bush's credibility because it cemented the impression for many Americans of a president who was out of touch and lacked compassion.

Rep. Peter Welch, a Democrat from Vermont, said Obama's efforts to distance the strike he is seeking from the Iraq war could carry weight with the president's skeptical supporters.

"The Democrats have a lot of appreciation for the fact that we have a president who's a war-ender, not a war-starter," Welch said. "When he says it's limited, personally, I think Democrats believe him, because of his history. It's not a fear that it's George Bush and regime change."

But underscoring the uphill fight Obama faces, even Welch says he's undecided about how he would vote on military action.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Disision CPA kontra planun militat

Ikuetpon manehanten i Commonwealth Ports Authority klaru ha deklara disisioña kontra planun US Air Force gi usun planun batkon aire Saipan.

Petsonatmente, konfotmeyu' nu ayu na disision pot famaguon eskuela siha gi sanlichan na patte Saipan. Mampos dañikul na buruka kada biahe na tumalag halom ruplanun gera para u tunog. Hombre pa'gu buruka, kuatdiba ya regulat basis 'nai man-hahalom guine.

Huñgan gai atoridat i federat mañule' guine tanu' taimanu mafitma gi papa' kontratan i Covenant. Ti hu tuñgu' kau pot primet biahe para talie' inatuñgoñ kañgiluñg pot este na asuntu. Lau siempre talie' haf' mas mamamaila' para mona.

Ti komprendiyon lokue' haf' i militat na para u hanau mage Saipan lau esta gai lugat giya Tinian. Kase buente malie' na mas baratuña gaston fasilitat niha Saipan ke Tinian. Yangin enfin humalum gineng ethision eminent domain, kau para unana'lu tatte tod 'sino lamayot patte Tinian?

Dispues i Marinu gai interes lokue' umusa iya Pagan. Kuantu mas malagu' niha na tanu' guine? Debi i sentimentun natibu umana opun gi kongresson iya America nu este siha na planu. Gaige ha' iya Filipinas yan Guam. Para ta'lu Marianas?

Hafa kuttura-ta?

Sessu matuka hineñgen kuttura yan tradision natibu ni gumeluluye inetnon man-indihinai (indigenous people). Mauleg na intension i sessu mafama na palabra: "kuttura".

Desde antigua na tiempu, megai siha tinilaika kontodu fuetsau na otdin para umapunu' liñguahen Chamorro. Sumasaunau Haliman, Espanñol, Japones yan pa'gu Amerikanu.

Libre i liñguahen sa' ti mañeha manguelo-ta gi usun hila' nanan

niha. Masuñgun todun finatton mattiru ya fitme magu'ot finu' natibu.

Guaha lokue' i Amerikanu 'nai ha choneg dineskuten dinañga todun klasen rasan tautau para uma-embrasa i kutturan Amerikanu. Lau ni siha ti siña mapula' haf' na kuttura masasañgan. Kau pipitas fiholes yan tinala' katnen guaka, tihuñg cowbow, hamburger, pizza 'sino haf' ma-abibiba kumu kutturan man-apaka'?

Gi hilu' este, kulan mohon i man-mafattu America gineng Uropa yan otru siha tanu' man-tai kuttura. Mampos chatpagu para fuetsau bai' yute' kutturahu pot ti tuñgu' un na kutturan Amerikanu.

Klaru, na todun dumiñgu hagas tanu' niha hinanau pot appotunidat yan prosperu na linala' giya America. Taya' mas ke este na guinife.

'An pot kuttura, debi America u fan respeta ni kutturan otru siha tautau. Gi hilu' respetu guine na patte 'nai siña mas ma-akanteha ineyag prinsipi siha ni muna' felis kinalamten iya America.

Gi halom este na rimulini haf' kutturan tanu'? Fifitme ha' i relation tanu' yan haf' hagas mapraktika ni mañaina-ta tat kumu gualu'? 'Nai maliñgu este i mas fitme ni umestablese kutturan natibu, haf' tumulaika dispues?

Yangin fietmiente in' estudiaye haf' siha maliñguta gi bandan kuttura yan tradision, pues siempre in' lie' na ti todun tinilaika gi modetnu na modun linala' ta benefisiosu. Siña ha' guaha dididi' linibianu lau inipos na dañu lokue' ha batsala halom gi gima' familia.

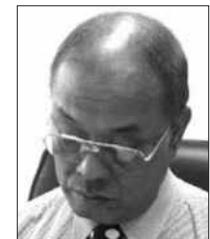
Hu sen agradese dumañgkulu hulu' 'nai fifitme ha' i metgot na sensian kumumida. Ha inklusu inana' en kinisechan gualu', kineni' guihan, yan fiet na inadahe yan pas gi halom bisinu.

I tinilaikan tiempu muna' faliñgu este na patte gi kutturan natibu. Dimas de un' rikonose bisinumu, ensegidus un' huchum pettamu pot no un' ma-estotba. Na ti mauleg satton na inatuñgu' pot siakassu na guaha seriosu na chinatsaga 'sino ira'?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



'Nai mas man-achagu' i familia gi hiniyoñ hagas soñgsuñg, mas lokue' menos dinañga yan mata'lun masimientu i fitme na amesta gi entalu' mañelu. Huñgan, man-a'abisita hit lau repara sa' kulan 'an guaha ha' dinimalas 'nai masusesede este.

Ansiosu-yu' kumetuñgu haf' kuttura yan tradision natibu pa'gu. Hu sen agradese kontribusion todun man-atuñgo'hu gi este na asuntu. Bes enkuandu, mas u guaha inatuñgo' yan inakomprende yan ta tutuhon dinañga pot para ta diskute este yan todun asunto-ta.

■ ■ ■

Ilegña amiguuhu as Magoo na esta akseptau kumu kuttura i man-hatsan lateria—setbesa. "Maseha ñgai'an, todun tiempu mofo'na i uñigag lateria ke necesidad famaguon gi fina' dinañga". Ha totche na pare na kuttura piof ya guaha pinitimu ya sige tuhu' lago'mu. "Haf' na milag sadog 'an guaha umadiñgan 'na mesñgun hau'." De dios esta mamames mikosmu! Mañge' katen bulacheria. Pot fabot!

■ ■ ■

Hu faisen si Magoo haf' kuttura. Ilegña, "Guuya 'nau i petbus ni mabebende gi tenda para man-neni'". Kase "Kuttikura" ha sasañgan. Pitbetsu! Hu dobla fumaisen haf' "haichio'", man-oppe na "aparatdot magagu gi apusientun dos amku'". De dios miu!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kill the settlement agreement and make CNMI government accountable

The deadline, Sept. 20, 2013, for all retirees to decide whether to opt out of the settlement class is fast approaching. Many retirees, if not all, are sick with worry, frustrated, and feeling helpless and confused whether to opt out or stay in as class members. For many of us, we are calling out the unfairness of the settlement agreement that will reduce retirees' pension payments by 25 percent when it is our government who created the problems, yet our government refuses to share the burden. The government has tons of excuses and scapegoats to justify the dilemma of the NMI Retirement Fund. The government has failed us big time and it should be made accountable!

As much as I do not agree to defer and lose 25 percent of my benefits, but I do understand the necessity at this time to reduce retirees' benefits to prolong the life our pension program until such time sufficient funds are available to pay retirees their full benefits. The problem is that under the settlement agreement, for every year that the settlement fund cannot pay the remaining 25 percent unpaid pension, we lose that right to claim the 25 percent forever. What I cannot understand is why our government and the NMI Retirement Fund failed to apply this approach? The acceptance of the final amended stipulation and agreement for settlement by Gov. Inos has proven that the CNMI is capable to resolving the NMI Retirement Fund's dilemma. Gov. Inos has committed the CNMI in the settlement agreement to make minimum annual payments starting from fiscal year 2014 until fiscal year 2024 for a total sum of \$382 million. After fiscal year 2024 the CNMI is still liable to pay into the settlement fund to enable the settlement fund to pay 75 percent of class members' full benefits each year for the settlement fund's expected life as determined by an inde-

pendent actuary approved by the District Court. Why does our government have to wait until it is forced by a court in order to do the right thing and to be accountable? We the people should stand up to demand accountability in our government and to ensure that our government is serving us right!

Gov. Inos has accepted to give away the assets of the CNMI to the settlement agreement. These assets could very well help the government to address the dilemma of the NMI Retirement Fund. I guess our government is not capable of using these assets as a tool to resolve the Fund's problems, so he surrenders to the management of the District Court.

This is the nightmare for all the people of the CNMI. If our government fails to make annual payments or contributions to the settlement fund as Gov. Inos promised, there is a judgment of \$779 million against the CNMI. Almost \$1 billion! *Ai lokkue nanang!*

It was reported in the local newspaper that the CNMI has spent more than \$1 million on attorney's fees. Our government continues to claim "no money" but yet it can afford to pay out millions and millions of dollars to pay and make all attorneys involved comfortable! While we sacrifice 25 percent reduction of our benefits. Gov. Inos agreed for the CNMI to pay the class counsels' attorney's fees and costs that could be over \$15 million, not to mention the cost of the CNMI attorneys involved. Also the governor agreed to have the CNMI pay the sum of \$7,500 to Johnson for her efforts in the past four years.

The settlement agreement creates a settlement fund whereby all retirees who decide to stay in as class members will no longer be members of the NMI Retirement Fund. Our government will con-

tinue to be liable to class members under this newly created fund entity under the guidance of the District Court and to those who decide to opt out until the last standing retiree is called by our Almighty Creator. The governor is advocating for all of us to stay in and not to opt out. If we decide to be class members, it is not a guarantee that we will continue to receive our 75 percent benefits. The settlement agreement provides that our benefits can still be further reduced below 75 percent pro-rata and there is nothing we can do about it! But if we all opt out (or at least 10 percent of the full benefits payable in the fiscal year 2014 opt out) there are many options we have—if we stand united to demand our government to settle with all retirees or be excluded in the upcoming election!

So, is this a good deal for us retirees? In my own opinion it is the worst deal for us and our beloved CNMI. For some of us retirees, the 25 percent cut in our pension will still be sustainable but for many of us who are receiving far less, our lives will tremendously be disrupted and living in the CNMI will be very difficult for us all. For our CNMI, the future will become unbearable with liabilities and the future of our children in the CNMI will be without hope.

So we can all stay in as class members and hope for the best to last. Or we can all opt out and demand accountability in our government to remit its contribution to the NMI Retirement Fund, same as what is agreed in the settlement agreement. Let us all stand united to kill this settlement agreement and demand accountability in our government!

Jesus Taisague
Koblerville, Saipan

Johnson class action suit is questionable

If Betty Johnson claims she is representing the retirees, then why are the majority of retirees in fear for their livelihood and financial income with this settlement? Why are the majority of the Retirement Fund DB members against this lawsuit?

How come only Betty Johnson and her lawyers are going to benefit from this? I mean, if we agree to this settlement, our government who provides healthcare services, utility, education, and food stamp will be at risk of bankruptcy. Not only that but those retirees (about 2,900 who are making below \$50,000) that you will put below poverty level will have nowhere to go for assistance should our government close down.

A retiree is complaining that if this settlement goes through, she won't be able to survive with her income and she would need to return to work in order to afford living. Imagine those active members who opt out who are disabled or are too old to work. What is going

to happen to them? There is no welfare, not eligible for SSI, and can't work. Plus food stamp for one adult in the CNMI is \$27 only.

If this judgment is constitutional, then why were we defined benefit members not consulted to be part of this lawsuit, if only for respect? Majority of DB members don't know their rights to their share.

How come the judge and the lawyers are deciding what to do with our money? The attorneys and Betty Johnson filed this lawsuit for their benefit only. If she says we will benefit, then why are we in fear for our rights? We have no say-so as DB members in this lawsuit.

Someone made this mess, and got away with it. The judge, lawyers, and the government should investigate this and make those people pay for this mess. Why should we pay for their mess?

Back in 2009, Judge Govendo threatened to put the NMI Retirement Fund under receivership. Why didn't he do so? It is would

have been a better judgment for all.

I wonder if Judge Gatewood understands that our economy is collapsing, and the entire CNMI is now worried of what's going to happen next? I wonder if Betty Johnson's attorney knows that this lawsuit is going to affect the entire CNMI for their greed. (Remember, many who will be in poverty would be able to get only \$27 for food stamp, they will have no SSI and no unemployment check.)

Think about it DB members. And start planning to unite and let us seek the U.S. Department of Commerce's assistance for an attorney so we could sue Betty Johnson and her attorneys who are trying to rob us. Because our government is incapable of finding one to defend our side against Betty Johnson's attorneys.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose Village, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 89	▼ 79
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 84	▼ 75
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90	▼ 76
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 87	▼ 76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87	▼ 74
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87	▼ 74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 86	▼ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 62	▼ 53
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 83	▼ 65
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88	▼ 80
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 87	▼ 75
London	Cloudy	▲ 67	▼ 61
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79	▼ 62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 87	▼ 79
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 61	▼ 42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 84	▼ 77
New York	Sunny	▲ 92	▼ 73
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 90	▼ 75
Paris	Showers	▲ 67	▼ 53
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83	▼ 74
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 75	▼ 59
Salem	Sunny	▲ 97	▼ 60
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66	▼ 58
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲ 80	▼ 70
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89	▼ 75
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 96	▼ 75

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:05 AM	6:21 PM	Today	11:55 AM	11:36 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM	Friday	12:53 PM	
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM	Saturday	1:50 PM	12:35 AM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:19 PM	Sunday	2:45 PM	1:36 AM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:18 PM	Monday	3:37 PM	2:36 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

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Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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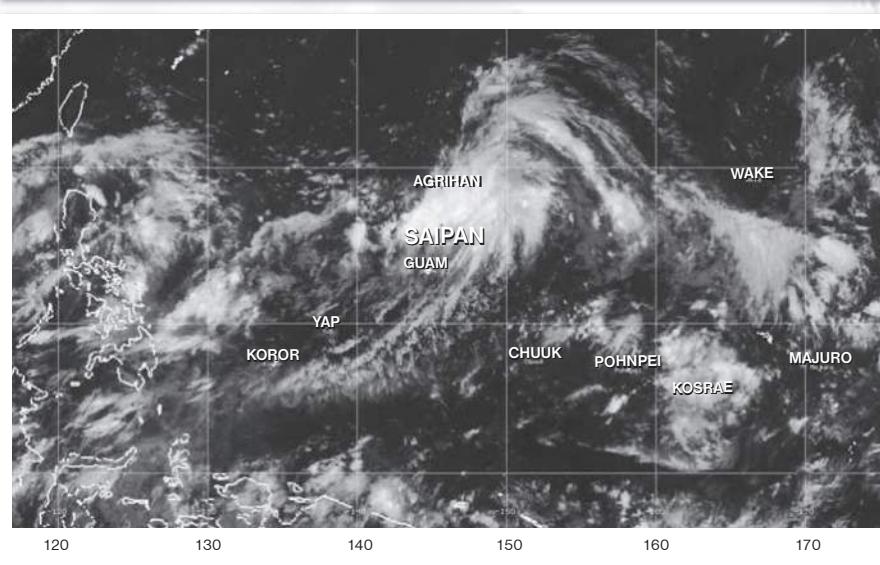


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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

Western North Pacific between the equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough meanders northeastward from Luzon through 14N130E to pass through two circulations one centered north of Koror near 14N133E and the other centered east of the extreme Northern Marianas near 19N149E. The trough continues eastward to end south of Minami Tori Shima at 19N156E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough north of Palau and Yap between 10N and 14N from 130E to 135E and near the Marianas between 10N and 16N from 143E to 150E. Scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring in the vicinity of the second circulation between 16N and 20N from 144E to 152E. Convergent southeast winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Minami Tori Shima within 90 miles of a line from 24N150E to 17N158E. A surface trough running from 17N163E to 3N163E and divergent upper-level winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Wake Island between 11N and 17N from 164E to 173E and east of Pohnpei between 3N and 9N from 161E to 166E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northeast of Majuro between 11N and 14N from 177E to beyond the dateline.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily	UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062				UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5038				UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN				SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	Daily	DL287	2:20am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:10am	1, 6	DL288	8:55pm		

Business

Apple's new iPhones simultaneously aim high, low

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—For the first time since introducing the device that has reshaped technology and culture, Apple will offer two distinct versions of its latest iPhones—a cheaper model made of colorful plastic and another one that aims to be “the gold standard of smartphones” with a faster processor, fancier camera and fingerprint scanner for better security.

Apple hatched the next iPhone generation, set to go on sale Sept. 20, during a Tuesday spectacle that was capped by a three-song performance by Elvis Costello at the company’s Cupertino, Calif., headquarters.

The company also announced it will release a previously announced overhaul of its operating system for iPhones and iPads on Sept. 18.

The iOS 7 adds an iTunes radio station, new photo management tools and more ways to access apps. It will be available for free and compatible with Apple devices dating back to the iPhone 4 released in 2010 and the iPad 2 that debuted in 2011. The operating system will already be installed on Apple’s new line-up of phones.

In a mild surprise, Apple said it will also begin giving away its iPhoto, iMovie, Numbers, Pages and Keynote apps as part of iOS 7. The company has been charging 99 cents to \$4.99 for each of those apps.

Analysts interpreted the free distribution of the Numbers, Pages and Keynote apps—part of Apple’s “iWork” suite of software—as a challenge to Microsoft Corp.’s package of widely used Office programs for word processing, spreadsheets and presentations.

The annual unveiling of Apple’s new iPhones came as the world’s most valuable company

tries to regain some of the market share that it has lost during the past two years to Samsung Electronics and other smartphone makers who rely on Google Inc.’s free Android operating system. Many of those devices cost less than the iPhone and boast features, such as larger screens, missing from Apple’s best-selling product. That has made An-

droid phones an attractive alternative to budget-conscious consumers who still want to impress their friends.

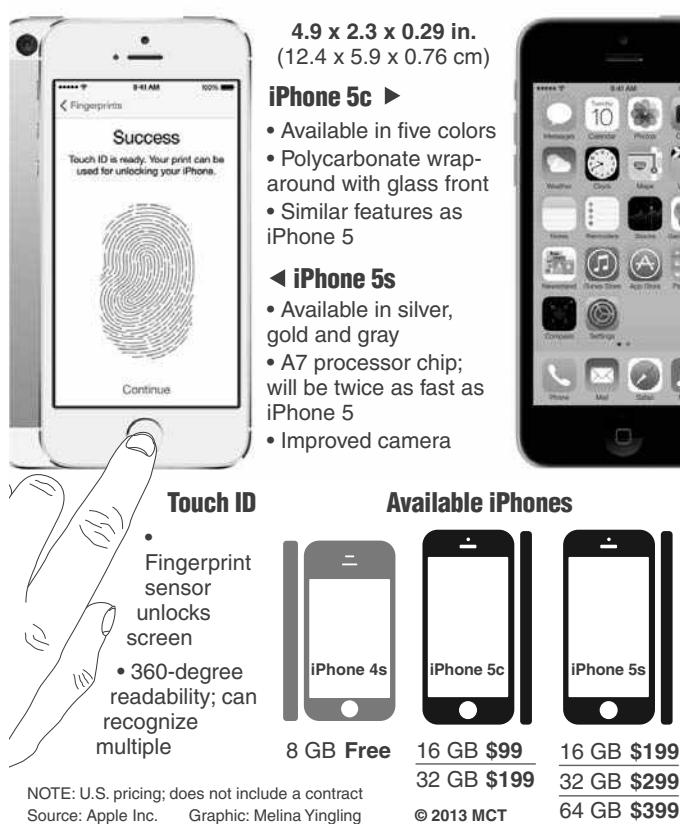
Those ingredients have

helped catapult Samsung to the top of the smartphone heap with a 32 percent share of the market in the most recent quarter, compared to 14 percent for Apple,

according to the research firm Gartner Inc. By some estimates, more than three-fourths of all smartphones now being sold run on Android.

Apple's big announcement

Apple is replacing the popular iPhone 5 with two new devices.



AP

Phil Schiller, Apple’s senior vice president of worldwide product marketing, speaks on stage during the introduction of the new iPhone 5C in Cupertino, Calif., Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013.

Richest 1 percent earn biggest share since '20s

WASHINGTON (AP)—The gulf between the richest 1 percent and the rest of America is the widest it’s been since the Roaring ‘20s.

The very wealthiest Americans earned more than 19 percent of the country’s household income last year—their biggest share since 1928, the year before the stock market crash. And the top 10 percent captured a record 48.2 percent of total earnings last year.

U.S. income inequality has been growing for almost three decades. And it grew again last year, according to an analysis of Internal Revenue Service figures dating to 1913 by economists at the University of California, Berkeley, the Paris School of Economics and Oxford University.

One of them, Berkeley’s Emmanuel Saez, said the incomes

of the richest Americans surged last year in part because they cashed in stock holdings to avoid higher capital gains taxes that took effect in January.

In 2012, the incomes of the top 1 percent rose nearly 20 percent compared with a 1 percent increase for the remaining 99 percent.

The richest Americans were hit hard by the financial crisis. Their incomes fell more than 36 percent in the Great Recession of 2007-09 as stock prices plummeted. Incomes for the bottom 99 percent fell just 11.6 percent, according to the analysis.

But since the recession officially ended in June 2009, the top 1 percent have enjoyed the benefits of rising corporate profits and stock prices: 95 percent of the income gains reported since 2009 have gone to the top 1 percent.

That compares with a 45

percent share for the top 1 percent in the economic expansion of the 1990s and a 65 percent share from the expansion that followed the 2001 recession.

The top 1 percent of American households had pretax income above \$394,000 last year. The top 10 percent had income exceeding \$114,000.

The income figures include wages, pension payments, dividends and capital gains from the sale of stocks and other assets. They do not include so-called transfer payments from government programs such as unemployment benefits and Social Security.

The gap between rich and poor narrowed after World War II as unions negotiated better pay and benefits and as the government enacted a minimum wage and other policies to help the poor and middle class.

BEA: A. Samoa GDP grew in 2011, shrank in 2012

UTULEI, American Samoa

The Bureau of Economic Analysis released Tuesday estimates of gross domestic product, GDP, for American Samoa for 2011 and 2012, in addition to estimates of gross domestic product by industry and compensation by industry for 2011.1

The estimates of GDP for American Samoa show that real GDP—GDP adjusted to remove price changes—increased 0.5 percent in 2011 and decreased 2.4 percent in 2012. For comparison, real GDP for the U.S. (excluding the territories) increased 1.8 percent in 2011 and 2.8 percent in 2012.

In 2011, the increase in real GDP reflected an increase in territorial government spending that was partly offset by a decrease in consumer spending. The growth in government spending reflected an increase in investment that was largely due to continued reconstruction efforts following the 2009 earthquake and tsunami. Consumer spending fell as residents faced increases in prices and decreases in compensation.

In 2012, the downturn in real GDP reflected a continued decrease in consumer spending and a downturn in territorial government spending. Activities associated with the tuna canning industry offset some of the declines in consumer spending and government spending. Exports of goods, primarily canned tuna, increased. Private construction activity also increased, reflecting the construction of Tri Manu’s cold storage facility.

The estimates of GDP by industry for American Samoa show that the government sector declined in 2011, reflecting decreases in territorial and federal government compensation. The manufacturing sector also declined, reflecting a continued contraction in output of the tuna canning industry. Offsetting these declines was an increase in nonmanufacturing industries, which includes the construction sector.

The compensation by industry estimates, which are measured in current dollars, show that total compensation

decreased in 2011; the largest contributor to the decrease in compensation was territorial government compensation. Compensation for nonmanufacturing industries increased.

Future directions

These estimates were developed under the Statistical Improvement Program funded by the Office of Insular Affairs of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The release of the 2012 statistics reflects a one-year acceleration in the availability of the GDP estimates for American Samoa.

Moving forward, an agreement between OIA and BEA will extend and improve the estimates of GDP for American Samoa. The information provided by the American Samoa government will continue to be critical to the successful production of these estimates.

BEA currently plans to release GDP estimates for 2013 in the summer of 2014. GDP by industry and compensation by industry estimates for 2012 will also be released at the same time. (U.S. Census Bureau)



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

15,191.06
+127.94
+0.85%

S&P

1,683.99
+12.28
+0.73%

NASDAQ

3,729.02
+22.84
+0.62%

EXCHANGE RATES

	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7549	Philippine Peso	43.86
Australian Dollar	1.0762	Indian Rupee	63.8755	Singapore Dollar
British Pound	0.6359	Indonesian Rupiah	11215	South Korean Won
Canadian Dollar	1.0357	Japanese Yen	100.37	Swiss Franc
Chinese Yuan	6.1227	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2738	Taiwan Dollar
Euro	0.7548	New Zealand Dollar	1.2425	Thailand Baht



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Nation

Obama delays Syria vote, says diplomacy may work

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said in a nationally televised address Tuesday night that recent diplomatic steps offer “the potential to remove the threat of chemical weapons” inside Syria without the use of force, but he also insisted the U.S. military will keep the pressure on President Bashar Assad “and be ready to respond” if other measures fail.

Speaking from the East Room of the White House, Obama said he had asked congressional leaders to postpone a vote on legislation he has been seeking to authorize the use of military force against Syria.

Acknowledging the weariness the nation feels after a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, Obama said, “America is not the world’s policeman.”

And yet, he added, “When with modest effort and risk we can stop children from being gassed to death and thereby make our own children safer over the long run, I believe we should act. That’s what makes America different. That’s what makes us exceptional.”

“Our ideals and principles, as well as our national security, are at stake in Syria,” he declared.

The speech capped a frenzied 10-day stretch of events that began when he unexpectedly announced he was stepping back from a threatened military strike and first asking Congress to pass legislation authorizing the use of force against Assad.



President Barack Obama addresses the nation in a live televised speech from the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013. AP

With public opinion polls consistently showing widespread opposition to American military intervention, the White House has struggled mightily to generate support among lawmakers—liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans alike—who have expressed

fears of involvement in yet another war in the Middle East and have questioned whether U.S. national security interests were at stake in Syria. Obama had trouble, as well, building international support for a military attack designed to degrade Assad’s military.

Suddenly, though, events took another unexpected turn this week. First Russia and then Syria reacted positively to a seemingly off-hand remark from Secretary of State John Kerry indicating that the crisis could be defused if Damascus

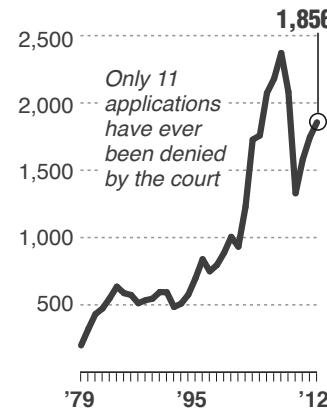
agreed to put its chemical weapons under international control.

The president said he was sending Secretary of State John Kerry to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Thursday, and he added, “I will continue my own discussion”

Poll: Public doubts rise on surveillance, privacy

Surveillance court orders

The number of Foreign Surveillance Act (FISA) court order applications for electronic surveillance made by the government to the secret FISA court:



disclosures have highlighted the once-remote issue of government surveillance.

“It’s not surprising this was going on, but I think all these revelations brought it home to people,” said Sam Thomas, a former musician from Knoxville, Tenn. “This is the eroding of American rights as we used to know it.”

Not until Snowden’s leaks was the massive NSA trawling—of domestic telephone numbers, and their calling patterns, and the agency’s collection of Americans’ Internet user names, IP addresses and other metadata swept up in surveillance of foreign terror suspects—confirmed and detailed. The new poll sought to measure the public’s views on the revealed NSA activities, and it also tracked Americans’ shifting opinions over time.

President Barack Obama has sought to reassure Americans that the government’s data collection does not extend to the contents of their phone calls and text messages. “Nobody is listening to your phone calls,” he said after the first wave of disclosures in June. He added: “They are not looking at people’s names, and they’re not looking at content.”

mer NSA contractor who released secret documents about the surveillance agency’s inner workings.

In follow-up interviews after the poll, some respondents described Snowden as a criminal and an attention-seeker. Others called him a whistleblower. But many agree that his

ACROSS THE NATION

Eliot Spitzer comeback bid fails in NYC primary

NEW YORK (AP)—Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer won the Democratic primary for comptroller Tuesday night, ending disgraced ex-Gov. Eliot Spitzer’s surprise bid to reclaim his political career. Stringer had a 52-percent-to-48-percent lead over Spitzer in incomplete and unofficial returns, with 92 percent of precincts reporting. Spitzer called Stringer to concede, according to Spitzer spokeswoman Lis Smith. Stringer will face a Republican and other opponents in November’s general election. Almost 70 percent of city voters are Democrats, and Democrats have held the comptroller’s office for decades.

Parents charged in Pa. girl’s starvation death

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A Philadelphia couple faces murder charges in the starvation death of their disabled 3-year-old girl, a case with harrowing echoes in a city where a series of children have suffered similarly slow, agonizing deaths. Nathalyz Rivera, one of a set of twins, weighed just 11 pounds when she died Monday. Although she had severe disabilities, she had not seen a doctor in more than a year and was apparently not on the radar of social services. Carlos Rivera, 30, and his wife Carmen Ramirez, 27, were charged Tuesday with third-degree murder. They have four other children, who were placed in protective custody. Neither parent immediately had a lawyer listed in court records, and attempts to reach relatives proved unsuccessful.

iPad video becomes key in George Zimmerman case

LAKE MARY, Fla. (AP)—Police investigating

with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

At the same time, he said the United States and its allies would work with Russia and China to present a resolution to the United Nations Security Council “requiring Assad to give up his chemical weapons and to ultimately destroy them under international control.”

In a speech that lasted 16 minutes, Obama recounted the events of the deadly chemical weapons attack on Aug. 21 that the United States blames on Assad.

“When dictators commit atrocities, they depend upon the world to look the other way until these horrifying pictures fade from memory. But these things happened. The facts cannot be denied,” he said.

The president said firmly that Assad’s alleged attack was “not only a violation of international law, it’s also a danger to our security.”

If diplomacy now fails and the United States fails to act, he said, “the Assad regime will see no reason to stop using chemical weapons” and “other tyrants will have no reason to think twice about acquiring poison gas and using” it. Over time, he added, U.S. troops could face the threat of chemical warfare, and if fighting escapes Syria’s border, “these weapons could threaten allies like Turkey, Jordan and Israel.”

a domestic dispute between George Zimmerman and his estranged wife said Tuesday they were confident they would be able to get video from her broken iPad, and the evidence will help them determine if charges should be filed. Police believe the mobile device captured video of Monday’s dispute at the Lake Mary house where the Zimmers had been living. Shellie Zimmerman told authorities he smashed it to pieces, but the former neighborhood watch volunteer said she hit him with it. Police said it was examined at a crime lab, and the chances of them being able to watch the video were “outstanding,” but it wasn’t clear when that might happen. “As of right now, we’re waiting on the iPad as the last piece of the puzzle,” Lake Mary police spokesman Zach Hudson said.

911 call that led to inmate’s arrest released

DETROIT (AP)—A man who escaped from a downtown courtroom after stabbing a sheriff’s deputy with the sharpened end of a comb was captured thanks to a 911 caller who described bumping into the convicted felon outside a convenience store. Detroit police released the two-minute 911 call Tuesday afternoon in which a man who did not identify himself animatedly described his encounter with Abraham Pearson. Authorities had been searching for Pearson for about 14 hours when the call came in at 9:49 p.m. Monday. “You know the guy who had escaped earlier? I just seen him at the store,” the man said at the outset of the call. “He kind of scared me,” the caller told the dispatcher later. “He seen me walking out the store. He like, ‘Yeah, I’m the guy that got away earlier.’” I’m like, ‘Uh, OK then.’ I just kept it on moving.”

Asia



Government troops take their positions as about 200 Muslim rebels, enraged by a broken peace deal with the Philippine government, held scores of hostages as human shields Tuesday Sept. 10, 2013 in a standoff with government forces for the second day with no solution in sight at the southern port city of Zamboanga, in southern Philippines. AP

Filipino rebels call for international mediation

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim rebels holding scores of hostages in the southern Philippines are demanding international mediation, an official said Wednesday, as fresh rounds of fire broke out between government troops and the guerrillas on the third day of the standoff.

The rebels, enraged by a broken peace deal with the government, are holding the civilian hostages as human shields near the port city of Zamboanga. Troops have surrounded the Moro National Liberation Front guerrillas and their hostages in four coastal villages.

At least nine people have been killed since the standoff began Monday.

On Tuesday, the rebels fired

two mortar rounds near the main port, prompting authorities to order vessels to dock elsewhere. The government rushed more troops and police to the city, and there were sporadic exchanges of fire. Some houses went up in flames in rebel-held villages, forcing more residents to flee.

Zamboanga was virtually shut down, with most air flights and ferry services suspended. Communities near the clashes resembled a war zone, with armored troop carriers lining streets, troops massing at a school and snipers taking positions atop buildings. A mosque and its minaret were pockmarked with bullet holes.

Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco said the rebels were demanding inter-

national mediation. She said a former governor from the rebels' stronghold of Sulu province tried to talk to the gunmen Tuesday, but "they refuse to listen to anybody locally."

"They say that it's an international problem, and no less than the international community, the U.N., should come in," she told television network ABS-CBN. Shots rang out as she spoke from the city hall.

There were no immediate reports of anyone hurt in Wednesday's sporadic trading of fire.

The MNLF rebel group signed a peace accord brokered by a committee of the Organization of the Islamic Conference with the government in 1996, but hundreds of its fighters held on to their

arms and have recently accused officials of renegeing on a promise to develop an autonomous region for minority Muslims in the southern Mindanao region. They also felt left out after a breakaway faction engaged in successful peace talks with the government brokered by Malaysia.

Last month, the MNLF issued new threats to secede by establishing its own republic.

However, its leader, Nur Misuari, has not appeared in public or issued any statement since about 200 of his followers barged into Zamboanga city's coast early Monday and clashed with soldiers and police. The fighting left at least nine combatants and civilians dead and several wounded.

Indian court convicts 4 in fatal gang rape case

NEW DELHI (AP)—An Indian court convicted four men Tuesday in the deadly gang rape of a young woman on a moving New Delhi bus, a brutal crime that galvanized public anger over the widespread—yet widely tolerated—sexual violence faced by Indian women.

As word of the verdict filtered out, protesters outside the courthouse chanted "Hang them! Hang them!"

The men were convicted on all 11 counts against them, including rape and murder, and now face the possibility of hanging. The sentences are expected to be handed down Wednesday.

Judge Yogesh Khanna said in his verdict that the men, who tricked the 23-year-old rape victim and a male friend of hers into boarding the bus they were driving, had committed "murder of a helpless person."

The parents of the woman,

who cannot be identified under Indian law, had tears in their eyes as the verdicts were read.

The mother, wearing a pink sari, sat just a few feet from the convicted men in a tiny courtroom jammed with lawyers, police and reporters. The hearing lasted only a few minutes, and the four men were quickly led from the courtroom by policemen after the verdicts were read.

Speaking before the convictions, the father of the victim called for the four to be executed.

"For what happened with her, these brutes must be hanged," he told reporters as he left home for the courthouse. "Nothing but the death penalty is acceptable to us."

Protesters called the Dec. 16 attack a wake-up call for India, where women have long talked quietly of enduring everything from sexual comments to public groping to rape, but where they

would often face blame themselves if they complained publicly.

"Every girl at any age experiences this—harassment or rape. We don't feel safe," said law school graduate Rabia Pathania. "That's why we're here. We want this case to be an example for every other case that has been filed and will be filed."

Lawyers for the men have insisted they were tortured—a common occurrence in India's chaotic criminal justice system—and that confessions, which were later retracted, were coerced.

A.P. Singh, who at times has worked as a lawyer for all the men, said they were innocent.

"These accused have been framed simply to please the public," he told reporters. "This is not a fair trial."

The men were identified by the young woman's friend, and police say they could be seen on security cameras near the bus.

The men, most of them from a crowded New Delhi neighborhood of hand-made brick shanties filled by migrants from poor rural villages, were joy-riding around the city in an off-duty bus when police say they came across the woman and her friend waiting at a bus stop. The pair—by most accounts they were not romantically involved—were heading home after an evening showing of "Life of Pi" at a high-end mall just a short walk from the courthouse where Tuesday's verdict was read.

It wasn't late. It wasn't a bad neighborhood. The bus, by all appearances, was just a way for the two to get home.

Instead, the attackers beat the friend into submission, held down the woman and repeatedly raped her. They penetrated her with a metal rod, causing severe internal injuries that led to her death two weeks later.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Chinese developer declared new richest tycoon

BEIJING (AP)—A billionaire Chinese real estate developer who bought one of the biggest U.S. cinema chains last year has emerged as his country's new richest tycoon. The Hurun Report said Wednesday a surge in stock prices helped to boost the number of China's dollar billionaires by 64 to 315 this year, compared with none a decade ago. The top five saw their wealth double. Wang Jianlin, whose Dalian Wanda Group Co. operates hotels, cinemas and department stores, was ranked No. 1 for the first time with a fortune of \$22 billion. He passed last year's No. 1, beverage entrepreneur Zong Qinghou. Wang's company bought AMC cinemas last year for \$2.6 billion in the biggest Chinese acquisition of a U.S. company to date.

Taiwan ruling party mulls action against speaker

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The disciplinary panel of Taiwan's ruling party has suspended the veteran legislative speaker, a move that portends potential problems for the China-friendly approach of President Ma Ying-jeou. Spurred on by Ma, Wednesday's decision against Wang Jin-pyng effectively strips him of his job and legislative seat. It follows claims by special prosecutors that Wang and former Justice Minister Tseng Yung-fu pressured prosecutorial officials not to appeal the acquittal of an opposition lawmaker on breach of trust charges. Tseng resigned under pressure from Ma on Friday. Ma's moves to oust Wang have provoked deep resentment among many Nationalists, who say the president is engaged in a personal vendetta. Any Nationalist split could aid the return to power of the China-wary opposition in 2016 elections, by diluting Nationalist strength.

Pakistan to release top Afghan Taliban prisoner

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan has decided to release the most senior Afghan Taliban prisoner it is holding and could do so as soon as this month to jumpstart the struggling peace process, a senior Pakistani official said Tuesday. The Afghan government has long demanded that Pakistan release Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban's former deputy leader. He was arrested in a joint raid with the CIA in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi in 2010. Sartaj Aziz, adviser to the Pakistani prime minister on national security and foreign affairs, said the government has agreed to release Baradar to help the peace process but has not yet set a date.

Japan says it may inhabit disputed islands

TOKYO (AP)—Japan said Tuesday it is considering stationing government officials on disputed East China Sea islands to back its territorial claim. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said the permanent placing of officials on the currently uninhabited islands, controlled by Japan but also claimed by China, is a strategic option. "We consider it an option, and plan to study the possibility based on a strategic point of view," he told a news conference. "There is no room for compromise over our sovereignty." In Beijing, China's Foreign Ministry warned that such a move would not be tolerated. "If they do provoke, they must be prepared to take the consequences," ministry spokesman Hong Lei said.

Indonesian policeman killed in downtown Jakarta

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Two men riding a motorcycle fatally shot a police officer Tuesday in front of Indonesia's anti-graft commission. National Police spokesman Maj. Gen. Ronny Frengky Sompie said police are investigating the motive for the attack in downtown Jakarta. The victim, identified only as Sukardi, a detective who was also riding a motorbike, died instantly. It was the third attack on police in and near the capital since August. Two officers were killed on Aug. 16, nine days after another was fatally shot. Both were in Tangerang Selatan on Jakarta's western outskirts. Police identified two attackers as suspected terrorists.

Koreas set to restart jointly run factory park

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North and South Korea agreed Wednesday to restart operations at a jointly run factory park that Pyongyang shut down in April during a torrent of threats, the latest sign of easing animosity between the rivals. Wariness, however, still lingers in Seoul and Washington over Pyongyang's springtime provocations, which included warnings of nuclear strikes against the allies, and the North's repeated vows to push ahead with nuclear weapons and missile work. Seoul's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said operations at the industrial park, located just north of the heavily armed border separating the two Koreas, would resume sometime after a trial run that starts Monday. The Koreas also plan reunions this month of families divided by the Korean War, and last week restored a military communications channel at the border.

World

Question of enforcement casts cloud on Syria plan

BEIRUT (AP)—A Russian plan for Syria to turn over its chemical weapons to avert Western missile strikes bogged down Tuesday when Moscow rejected U.S. and French demands for a binding U.N. resolution with “very severe consequences” for non-compliance.

The surprise Russian proposal, which Syria and the United States both accepted, would put President Bashar Assad’s regime’s chemical stockpile under international control before its eventual dismantling. The

initiative—also cautiously endorsed by Britain and France—appeared to offer a way out of a crisis that raised the prospect of U.S.-led military action against Syria in retaliation for an alleged chemical weapons attack last month.

But the plan ran aground as the world powers haggled over the crucial element of how to enforce it. Wary of falling into what the French foreign minister called “a trap,” Paris and Washington are pushing for a U.N. Security Council resolu-

tion to verify Syria’s disarmament. Russia, a close Assad ally and the regime’s chief patron on the international stage, dismissed France’s proposal as unacceptable.

The dizzying diplomatic maneuvering threatened what had been growing momentum toward a plan that would allow President Barack Obama to back away from military action. Domestic support for a strike is uncertain in the United States, even as Obama seeks Congress’ backing for

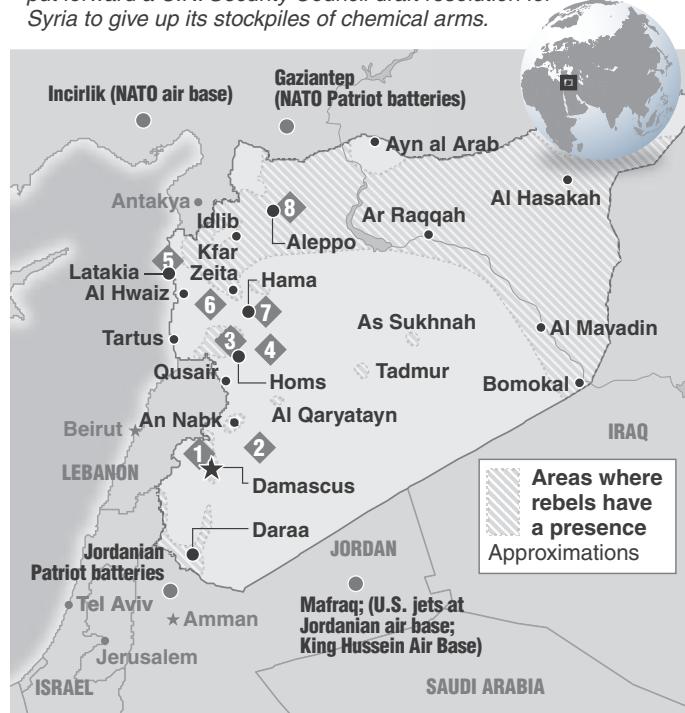
action—and there has been little international appetite to join forces against Assad.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem said early

Tuesday during a trip to Moscow that Damascus “agreed to the Russian initiative as it should thwart the U.S. aggression against our country.”

Chemical weapons plan

Syria has accepted a Russian proposal to surrender chemical weapons and win a reprieve from U.S. strikes. France said it would put forward a U.N. Security Council draft resolution for Syria to give up its stockpiles of chemical arms.



◆ Suspected chemical weapons sites *What is known*

1. CERS* chemical munitions research headquarters
Israeli warplanes conducted a strike against this facility in Jan. 2013
2. Khan Abu Shamal
Purportedly a storage site, not a production site
3. CERS* chemical munitions production center at Homs
4. Furqlus chemical weapons storage depot
Purportedly a storage site, not a production site
5. Latakia research center, chemical munitions production
Israeli jets struck at a battery of anti-ship missiles near here in July
6. Masyaf chemical munitions storage depot
7. CERS* chemical munitions production center at Hama
8. Al Safira government chemical weapons production site
An air base, a SCUD missile base, and a suspected chemical weapons production facility

*Centre D'Etudes et de Recherches Scientifiques
Source: ESRI, Foreign Policy, GlobalSecurity.org, CIA, U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency

Graphic: Robert Dorrell
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Securing Syria’s arsenal is rife with challenges



In this Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013 file citizen journalism image provided by the Local Committee of Arbeen which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, members of the UN investigation team take samples from the ground in the Damascus countryside of Zamalka, Syria.

BEIRUT (AP)—Russia’s proposal to place Syria’s chemical weapons stockpile under international control for dismantling would involve a lengthy and complicated operation made more difficult by a deep lack of trust—not to mention the lack of an inventory.

Syria is believed by experts to have 1,000 tons of chemical warfare agents scattered over several dozen sites across the country, and just getting them transferred while fighting rages presents a logistical and security nightmare.

Very few details are known so far about the plan announced Monday by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, part of a flurry of diplomatic activity aimed at averting U.S.-led military strikes in retaliation for a deadly Aug. 21 chemical weapons attack near Damascus.

Syria swiftly accepted, and the initiative was endorsed in quick succession by Britain, France and the U.S. as an idea worth exploring. Russia, Syria’s most powerful ally, says it

is now working with Damascus to come up with a detailed plan of action.

But the process is rife with challenges, taking place to the backdrop of a raging civil war and an opaque regime that until now has never formally confirmed that it has chemical weapons. Lack of trust between the regime’s chief supporters and opponents in the international community is likely to complicate the operation.

“This situation falls outside anything that we’ve known so far,” said Jean Pascal Zanders, an independent chemical weapons consultant and disarmament expert.

President Bashar Assad’s regime is said to have one of the world’s largest stockpiles of chemical weapons, including mustard gas and the nerve gas sarin. There have been long-standing concerns that the embattled leader might unleash them on a larger scale, transfer some of them to the militant Lebanese Hezbollah group, or that the chemical agents could

fall into the hands of al-Qaida militants among the rebels.

Many are skeptical that the Syrian regime would follow through on its commitments. The government has typically accepted last-minute deals with the international community to buy time, then argued over the details or fell back on its promises. Most recently, Syria called for an immediate U.N. investigation into an alleged chemical attack near Aleppo in March. Negotiations then dragged on until August before a deal was struck.

“The devil is in the details,” said Ralf Trapp, a disarmament consultant who worked for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons from 1997 to 2006. “Neither side (of the Syria conflict) has a reputation for sticking to deals for long periods of time.”

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, known by its acronym OPCW, will likely work, along with the U.N., on a framework for implementing the deal.

Before departing Moscow in the evening, al-Moallem told Lebanon’s Al-Mayadeen TV that Syria would place its chemical weapons locations in the hands of representatives of Russia, other unspecified countries and the United Nations. Syria will also declare the chemical arsenal it long denied having, stop producing such weapons and sign conventions against them.

Mindful that Damascus could only be seeking to avoid Western military strikes, France said it would put forward a draft resolution under Chapter 7 of the U.N. charter, making it enforceable with military action.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said the French resolution would demand that Syria open its chemical weapons program to inspection, place it under international control, and ultimately dismantle it. A violation of that commitment, he said, would carry “very serious consequences.” The resolution would condemn the Aug. 21 attack and bring those responsible to justice, he said.

“We do not want this to be used as a diversion,” Fabius said. “It is by accepting these precise conditions that we will judge the credibility of the intentions expressed yesterday.”

Obama threw his support behind the French resolution and discussed the matter with French President Francois Hollande and British Prime Minister David Cameron. At the same time, he continued to push his original plan to win congressional authorization for U.S. airstrikes against Assad’s regime in case the diplomatic efforts fail. Obama was to address the nation from the White House on Tuesday night.

WORLD BRIEFS

Egyptian army kills 9 suspects in Sinai offensive

EL-ARISH, Egypt (AP)—Egyptian army troops backed by helicopter gunships attacked suspected hideouts of Islamic militants in the Sinai Peninsula on Tuesday, killing nine and arresting 10, a military official said. The latest raids raised the death toll from four days of operations to 29. Officials have described the military offensive that started Saturday as the biggest sweep of the region in recent years, aiming to weed out al-Qaida-inspired groups who have taken hold in villages in northern Sinai. A military official said militant infrastructure including weapons caches, missile launchers, and nearly 100 vehicles were targeted in the operation. The official said troops, often with the help of air cover, have also targeted shacks and homes used by militants as hideouts, and areas where they stacked fuel for vehicles.

UK politician charged with sex offenses

LONDON (AP)—Prosecutors say they are charging a senior British Conservative Party politician with sex offenses. The Crown Prosecution Service said Tuesday that Nigel Evans will be charged with the offenses against seven men,

which allegedly took place between 2002 and 2013. The charges include two counts of indecent assault, five counts of sexual assault and one count of rape. The 55-year-old Evans, who was arrested May 4, has resigned from his position as deputy speaker of the House of Commons, but insisted he will continue working as a lawmaker. He reiterated to reporters Tuesday that he was not guilty and that the complaints were “incredulous.” He is due to appear in court on Sept. 18.

Soyuz capsule returns from space station

MOSCOW (AP)—A Soyuz capsule carrying three astronauts has touched down on Earth after undocking from the International Space Station after 166 days in space. NASA’s Chris Cassidy and Russians Pavel Vinogradov and Alexander Misurkin landed safely Wednesday in Kazakhstan, where they launched on March 29. Live NASA footage showed the three men emerging from the capsule and onto the sunny Kazakh steppe, where they will first be put into reclining chairs that will help them readjust to the earth’s gravity. The Soyuz is the only means for international astronauts to reach the orbiting laboratory since the decommissioning of the U.S. shuttle fleet in 2011.

Environment

Large appliances—repair or replace?

LIVING SMART

By ANGIE HICKS

<http://www.angieslist.com/>

Angie Hicks is the founder of Angie's List, a resource for local consumer reviews on everything from home repair to health care. Follow her on Twitter at @Angie_Hicks.



When the fridge goes warm or the washing machine stops spinning, you may face a crucial question: Is it worth spending time and money getting an appliance repaired, or would it be wiser to replace it?

The answer depends on numerous factors. Our consumer-services research team, in talking to top-rated appliance repair professionals from around the country, recommends these guidelines for deciding:

- Check the troubleshooting section of the instruction manual. You may discover an easy fix that might negate the need to call a repair person.

- Consider the age and history of the appliance. Has it broken down before? If you've not had prior problems, it may be cost-effective to explore repair options first.

- In many cases, it can be worth the money to call a repair pro out, even if you have to pay for a service call. A reliable appliance expert can examine the device and explain your options.

- If a repair is estimated to cost more than half the price of a new appliance and the unit is more than 6 or 7 years old, it may be time to buy a new one.

When comparing a repair estimate to the cost of replacement, be sure to factor in all costs, including whether there will need to be retrofitting or other accommodations if a replacement doesn't easily fit in your kitchen. Consider any costs for removal, installation and disposal. Also, determine how soon any energy savings will offset the cost of a new appliance.

Our researchers hear frequently about situations in which a repair saved a consumer significant money over the cost of replacement. One recent example featured a Maryland member of Angie's List who considered replacing his 15-year-old refrigerator when water leaked from the bottom.

The top-rated repair service he hired found that the leak was caused by a clogged defrost drain in the freezer, easily repaired for \$99. The service provider estimated the fridge would last another five or six years with the fix, compared to a cost of \$1,500 or more to buy a new fridge.

Other common problems that can be affordably repaired include dishwashers or washing machines clogged by too much residual soap, and appliances in need of new fan motors, belts and electronic controls.

More extensive, expensive repairs that might signify that replacement is a better option include issues with the refrigerant system or compressor with fridges, or broken motors on washers and dryers.

If you don't know a reliable appliance repair professional, check with neighbors, friends or online review services to see who's locally well-reviewed. Check how long the company has been in business and how much inventory its workers carry on trucks, as well as how quickly a technician can be sent out.

One way to reduce the need for hiring appliance repair services is to take good care of your large appliances. Our team suggests these tips for keeping appliances running longer:

- Clean refrigerator condenser coils annually.
- Don't overload dishwashers or washing machines.
- Clean the dishwasher's filter to remove debris and hard-water deposits. Make sure spray holes in the spinning arms are debris-free.
- Clean the dryer's lint filter before each use. Inspect and thoroughly clean the exhaust duct annually.
- Don't allow grease to build up on your stove or oven.
- Check air filters monthly and replace as needed.

Weeds targeted as biofuel source

By DAVID SHAFFER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

ISANTI, Minn.—On the nagging question of whether growing crops to produce biofuel hurts the nation's food supply, Clayton McNeff hopes to find a practical answer—in weeds.

McNeff, the co-inventor of technology used to refine biodiesel at the Ever Cat Fuels plant in Isanti, has been working for two years with a team of scientists and farmers to commercially grow two seed-bearing weeds as energy crops.

Last month, SarTec crushed its first oil seeds harvested from weeds. The oil will be refined into biofuel that works in diesel cars, trucks and tractors.

The goal of the project is to avoid using food crops like soybeans for fuel or displacing food crops with energy crops. So the research has focused on raising soybeans and weeds in the same fields and during the same growing season.

"You are double-cropping on the same land," said McNeff, vice president for Isanti-based SarTec, an agricultural nutrients producer controlled by his family that expanded into biodiesel in the past decade.

After planting the weed crops camelina or pennycress in late fall or early spring, some participating farmers have harvested them early enough to grow traditional crops in the same growing season.

"You are able to get both an energy crop and a cash crop like a soybean crop," he said. "That way we can provide both the energy we need ... and the food."

The SarTec team recently began extracting camelina oil at the plant in Isanti, but only after a frustrating year for researchers.

They struggled to screen out chaff—bits of leaves and flowers—so the sesame-sized camelina seeds could be crushed in an oil press. Though small, the seeds' oil content can be as high as 40 percent. That's a better ratio than in soybeans, the main source of biodiesel.

"The seed is so tiny we had to find a screen that had very, very tiny perforations, and the supplier had a problem doing that," said Pete Greuel, SarTec's general manager as he stood near a machine that now squeezes out light-yellow weed oil. "We press the oil out, and take it over to Ever Cat Fuels and make biodiesel."

Biodiesel has been produced since 2009 at the 3-million-gallon-per-year Ever Cat Fuels plant. It now uses waste oils collected from restaurants and other inedible fats, but the company has kept looking for other nonfood oils to produce biodiesel.

SarTec is not the first com-



SarTec/EverCat Fuels' Clayton McNeff shows how a portable biodiesel production unit works, August 2, 2013, in Isanti, Minnesota. The company plans to take it to farms, agricultural businesses and co-ops to process natural oil wastes, soybean oil and other lipids into biodiesel.

pany to look at camelina and pennycress as fuel crops. Both weeds have been studied by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, seed companies and university scientists. Camelina meal, the oil-rich residue from seed pressing, has been approved as cattle feed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

One of the Minnesota research team's goals is to master the practical steps for farmers to profitably grow such weed crops. McNeff said he aims to find out "what the value proposition is for the farmer."

Nine farmers and Minnesota's Anoka-Ramsey Community College have been part of the effort, which is funded by a three-year, \$500,000 U.S. Energy Department grant and matching funds from SarTec. In a separate, related project, SarTec recently developed a portable biodiesel refinery that it hopes to market to farmers as a largely automated way to

produce fuel from weeds grown on the farm.

"We have to get farther away from food crops being used for fuel," said Melanie Waite-Altringer, a biology faculty member at Anoka-Ramsey who maintains the project's website and has participated in the research with her students. "We have to go to different crops that will grow without a lot of nutrients, and this is definitely one of them. You don't need a lot of fertilizer to grow it—it's a weed."

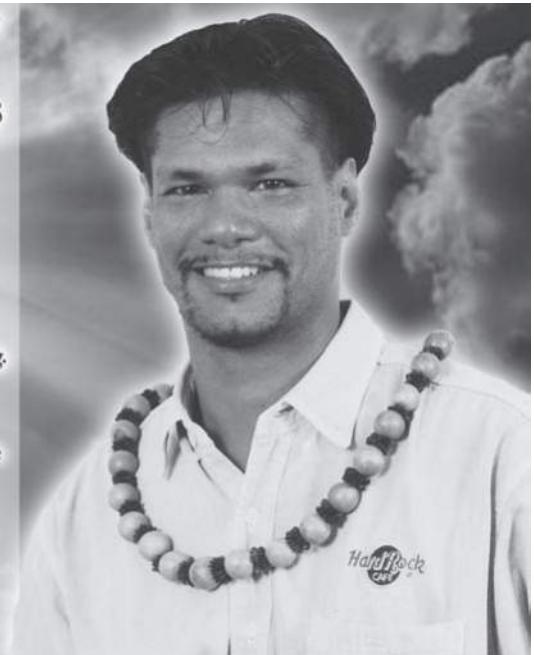
At a 25-acre plot on the college's Cambridge, Minn., campus, researchers planted camelina in May, followed by Roundup-ready soybeans in June. The camelina soon developed seeds and stood taller than the soybeans. It was sprayed with Roundup and the camelina was left to dry in July. The seed-bearing top of the camelina plant was harvested by a combine in early August. The soybeans, now on their own, kept

growing. "We have about 1,200 bushels off the whole site," Waite-Altringer said. Unfortunately, the camelina harvest also contains other, unwanted weeds, she said. That may have been caused by late planting in the wet spring, the timing of the harvest or both, she added.

Roger Bergman, a farmer for 70 years near Isanti, has twice planted camelina in the fall so it could be harvested in the spring. He has not gotten big yields, but plans to keep trying. Timing the planting and harvesting is critical, especially in Minnesota's short growing season, he added.

"It is an ancient crop, used far back in history," Bergman said of camelina, which he suspects was once used as lamp oil. "It has never been domesticated in this country. ... Chemically, it is a good fuel crop. It is better than almost anything else."

TENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of
+Richard Mathew Nauta Dueñas
affectionately remembered as
"Buli"
June 16, 1967 - September 13, 2003
We the friends and former students of "+Buli",
humbly invite those whose lives have been touched by
our beloved teacher and friend
to join us to celebrate his life and spirit
in prayer as we commemorate the tenth anniversary of his passing.
Mass for the repose of his soul
will be offered at 6:00PM on Friday, September 13, 2013
at Kristo Rai Church. Recitation of the Rosary will follow after the
mass, followed by light refreshments in the social hall.
Your prayers, thoughts, and presence are greatly appreciated.
Saina Ma'asi/Thank You ginin i korason-mâmi
Hafidz



Life & Style

One World Trade Center's 1,776-foot measure not yet nation's tallest

By BLAIR KAMIN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO—For years now, it has seemed a foregone conclusion that One World Trade Center, the skyscraper that has arisen on the site of the destroyed Twin Towers in lower Manhattan, would rise to a symbolic height of 1,776 feet and dethrone Chicago's Willis Tower as the nation's tallest building.

But with the 12th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks this week, new twists in the arcane game of measuring skyscraper height have raised the unlikely—and, for some, unthinkable—possibility that One World Trade Center won't be No. 1 and that Willis would retain the coveted titles of the tallest building in the U.S. and the Western Hemisphere.

The widely recognized arbiter of skyscraper bragging rights, the Chicago-based Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, will consider in November whether to knock more than 400 feet off One World Trade Center's official height, owing to a technical distinction between spires and antennas.

Such a call would disrupt the carefully calibrated symbolism, envisioned by ground zero master planner Daniel Libeskind, of a tower rising to 1,776 feet—a reference to the year the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence and an expression of American resolve in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

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PLANES [CC] (PG) (445 PM) 710 PM

ELYSIUM [CC] (R) 715 PM

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS [CC] (PG) 725 PM

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS 3D [CC] (PG) (425 PM)

WE'RE THE MILLERS [CC] (R) (420 PM) 720 PM

Times For 09/12 © 2013 www.REGmovies.com

For Chicago and New York, the stakes of being associated with the nation's tallest building are high, especially with Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel seeking to boost tourism. Last week, city officials trumpeted the news that Chicago had moved up one notch—to ninth place—among U.S. cities in attracting international tourists. New York ranked first.

Yet even if the council's

issue surfaced last year when the Durst Organization, which is co-developing One World Trade Center with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, confirmed its decision to eliminate a fiberglass and steel "radome" that would serve as an ornamental cover for the skyscraper's mast.

The decision, which saved an estimated \$20 million in construction costs, was primarily based on concerns that

organization has picked up on the subtlety of that," said Wood, the tall building council's executive director.

SOM on Monday backed off Childs' earlier statement, saying in an email "there is no doubt in our minds" that the mast atop One World Trade Center qualifies as a spire. But SOM did not explain why the tall buildings council ought to heed its new position, leaving the door open—if only a

1,776 feet.

Such padding of skyscraper height has fueled a reaction against the ever-growing spires that adorn the world's current crop of supertall skyscrapers, which the council defines as being taller than 300 meters, or 984 feet.

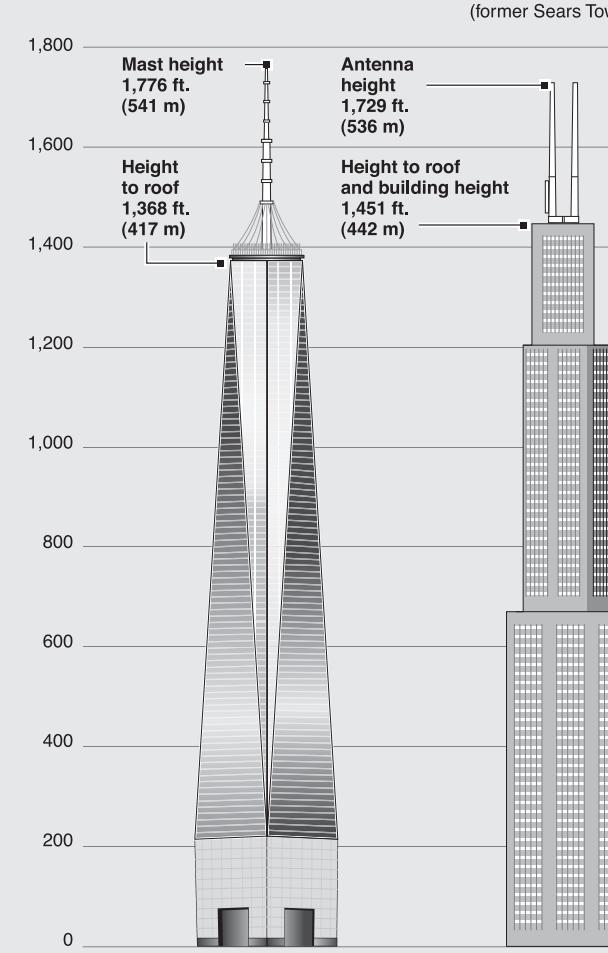
In a Web posting last week, the council labeled the trend of unoccupied skyscraper tops "vanity height."

The height-padding trend

The height of controversy

In November, the Chicago-based Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat will decide whether One World Trade Center should be considered the nation's tallest building—and whether the building's official height will be a symbolic 1,776 feet (541 m). At issue is whether the skyscraper's mast is a spire, which counts in the official height measurement, or an antenna, which is only counted in a lesser category.

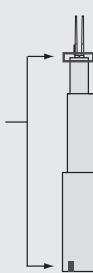
One World Trade Center



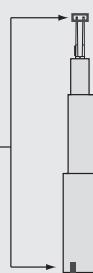
3 ways building heights are measured

Example using Willis Tower

Height to architectural top
Height is measured from the lowest entrance to the top of the building; this includes spires but not antennas, signage, flagpoles or other functional technical equipment; this is the most widely used measurement to define a building's height



Height to tip of structure
Height is measured from the lowest entrance to the highest point of the building; this includes antennas, flagpoles, signage and other functional technical equipment

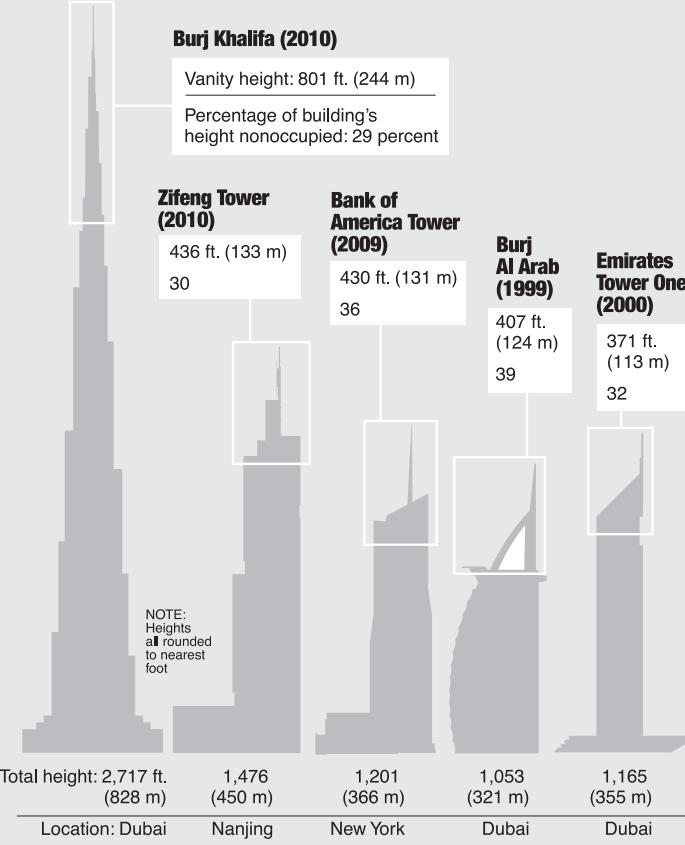


Highest occupied floor
Height is measured from the lowest entrance to the highest occupied floor



Growing trend: 'vanity height'

According to the Council on Tall Buildings, "vanity height" is the distance between a skyscraper's highest occupied floor and its architectural top; the term is used to describe spires and other extensions of tall buildings that do not enclose usable space



"I think the common perception and the common wisdom ... is that it's 1,776," Nina Libeskind, the architect's wife and spokeswoman, said Monday in a telephone interview. "I don't know how one suddenly dictates that it isn't because they don't consider antennas to be part of the building. I would say it's the wrong call."

According to the tall building council's rule book, spires can be counted in a tall building's height but broadcast antennas, like flagpoles, are superfluous add-ons. In 1996, that distinction doomed the bid of Willis Tower, then known by its original name of Sears Tower, to retain the world's tallest building crown. Instead the council ruled in favor of the Petronas Towers in Malaysia, whose spires made them a scant 33 feet taller than Sears.

height committee rules in One World Trade Center's favor, another technicality could upset the tower's appeal to national pride.

Four years ago, the council revised its rules to state that a skyscraper's height is measured from the lowest significant, open-air pedestrian entrance to the building's top.

Because One World Trade has a secondary, north-facing entrance that is 5 feet lower than its main, south-facing entrance, the tower's height in feet could be 1,781. That hardly has the same patriotic ring as 1,776, though it would recognize the year of the decisive Revolutionary War battle at Yorktown.

"The issue is not just about the height of the building. It's about the base of the building," said Antony Wood, the council's executive director.

The spire versus antenna

the radome's tapering web of interlocking triangles would prove impossible to maintain, the developers said. It led to a reaction from the tower's architect that raised eyebrows at the council.

"Eliminating this integral part of the building's design and leaving an exposed antenna and equipment is unfortunate," the architect, David Childs of the New York office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, or SOM, said in a widely disseminated statement.

Because the council, a private nonprofit association based at the Illinois Institute of Technology, relies heavily on architects' descriptions of their skyscrapers, Childs' statement appeared to lend credence to the view that One World Trade Center's mast could no longer be considered a spire.

"No one outside our orga-

crack—for the council's height committee to base its decision on Childs' original remarks.

Addressing the issue of the lower secondary entrance, a spokeswoman said SOM's hope is that the design will be grandfathered in because it was unveiled in 2005—four years before the council made its rule change.

"The 'front door' of (One World Trade Center)—symbolically and practically—is the south entrance," SOM said in its email. "This is the entrance that faces the 9/11 memorial and is, therefore, the most significant entrance to the building from every standpoint."

The skyscraper's website already touts it as the tallest in the Western Hemisphere and "New York's global icon." One World Trade Center measures 1,368 feet to its roof. Its 408-foot mast stretches its height to

was especially evident in the Persian Gulf emirate of Dubai, where the spire of the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, designed by SOM's Chicago office, is more than 730 feet tall, accounting for nearly 30 percent of the building's total height of roughly 2,720 feet.

The spire alone would be Europe's 11th-tallest building, according to the council.

The Port Authority and SOM have submitted documents to the council, a spokesman for the authority said Friday. "We certainly look forward to their decision," the spokesman said.

If the council's height committee rules against One World Trade Center, it would relegate the skyscraper to third place among U.S. high-rises, following the 1,451-foot Willis Tower and another Chicago skyscraper, the 1,388-foot Trump International Hotel & Tower.

Lady Gaga going to trial in ex-assistant's lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP)—A one-time roommate and friend of Lady Gaga who claimed after serving as her personal assistant for more than a year that the pop singer cheated her out of overtime wages can tell her story to a jury in November, a judge said Tuesday.

A jury can decide whether Gaga's demands left Jennifer O'Neill any personal time or whether she was on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as she claimed in her 2011 lawsuit, U.S. District Judge Paul Gardephe said. A trial is set for Nov. 4.

O'Neill worked for the singer for one to two months in early 2009 and for 13 months beginning in February 2010, and the judge said both sides agree she was expected to be available as needed throughout each hour of each day.

Gardephe ruled that O'Neill's "on-call" time potentially qualifies for overtime compensation.

O'Neill said she was paid at a flat rate of about \$50,000 annually when she was first hired

Clint Eastwood's wife files for legal separation

MONTEREY, Calif. (AP)—Clint Eastwood's second wife has filed for legal separation from the actor and director.

Dina Eastwood's petition filed in Monterey County Superior Court on Monday seeks spousal support and physical custody of the couple's 16-year-old daughter, Morgan.

The Monterey County Herald reports the petition also indicated the couple had a premarital agreement.

The Eastwoods have been married since 1996 and lived in Carmel. They met when she was assigned to interview him for her TV news station.

Clint Eastwood was married once before, to Maggie Johnson, from 1953 to 1984.

'Jurassic Park' sequel titled 'Jurassic World'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The fourth installment of "Jurassic Park" has a name: "Jurassic World."

Universal Pictures announced the film's new title and release date Tuesday. The sequel will hatch in 3-D on June 12, 2015.

The studio has already said "Safety Not Guaranteed" filmmaker Colin Trevorrow will direct the film and Steven Spielberg will serve as producer.

Spielberg directed the first two "Jurassic Park" films, while "Captain America" director Joe Johnston helmed the third installment.

The dinosaur franchise has grossed \$1.9 billion at the box office worldwide since the first film was released in 1993.



In this Dec. 15, 2012 file photo pop singer Lady Gaga performs at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

and \$75,000 annually the second time by the pop singer, who is estimated in a list published by Forbes magazine to have earned \$80 million in the first six months of this year.

Lawyers did not immediately comment.

In his written decision, Gardephe noted that lawyers said Lady Gaga, listed in the litigation under her birth name—Stefani Germanotta—and O'Neill frequently slept in the same bed because O'Neill never had her own hotel room while on tour and was required

to address Lady Gaga's needs throughout the night.

O'Neill had testified in a deposition that if Lady Gaga was watching a DVD in the middle of the night and grew tired of it, she woke her up to take out and replace the DVD.

"Every day is a work day for her, so every day is a work day for the rest of us," she said. "There is no, 'We're going to stay in, we're going to sleep.' There is no, 'Let's put on sweatpants and go out to the movies and be girlfriends.' It doesn't work like that," O'Neill said.

In her deposition testimony, Lady Gaga had testified: "You don't get a schedule. You don't get a schedule that is like you punch in and you can play ... at your desk for four hours and then you punch out at the end of the day. This is when I need you, you're available."

O'Neill had testified she was responsible for sometimes monitoring the singer's email and telephone communications and for handling all her luggage—generally 20 bags—including clothing, accessories, makeup and toiletries.

Kimmel: I'm the prankster behind twerking video



This undated publicity photo released by ABC shows host Jimmy Kimmel, right, with guest, Daphne the "Twerk" Girl, on the Emmy Award-nominated "Jimmy Kimmel Live," Sept. 9, 2013 show.

In the clip posted last week, a young woman's twerking ends in screams as she topples into a table with burning candles. "I tried making a sexy twerk video for my boyfriend and things got a little too hot," reads a comment accompanying the video.

On "Jimmy Kimmel Live" Monday, the host introduced the rest of the clip that showed him bursting into the woman's living room—dressed in a pink top and black yoga pants to match hers—and dousing her with a fire extinguisher.

"Good thing nothing is happening in Syria right now," Kimmel said, taking a jab at the newscasts that gave his video airtime.

up to the camera.

TV news directors should have done their homework before airing the clip, said Eric Deggans, TV and media critic for the Tampa Bay (Fla.) Times and recently announced TV critic for National Public Radio.

"Too often, especially on morning shows and cable shows not considered 'hard news' shows, they wind up running videos and commenting like they are accurate," Deggans said. But the programs often have no idea who posted the video or how or why it was produced, he said.

Family's feuding complicates woman's plans for her funeral

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have four siblings. We get along fine as long as we're apart.

During Mom's and Dad's funerals, I was dismayed at the degree of tension and bickering among us. I am now dealing with an incurable illness that will shorten my life considerably. I have no desire to put my husband through a funeral hosting a family who never liked him. I prefer to be cremated, and a handwritten letter be sent to each of my siblings after the fact.

Is this selfish? I don't want people saying things they don't sincerely mean. I didn't have a happy childhood, and my siblings contributed to that. My letter will not be accusatory, nor will it rake up long-ago hurts. I just want them to know that my husband has carried out my wishes and they should not blame him for doing so. Any thoughts?

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

DEAR KEEPING IT SIMPLE: I don't think your wishes are selfish. You're entitled to exit the stage of life in the manner you choose. Because you prefer to bid your siblings goodbye in handwritten letters, go ahead and do it.

If I have any advice to offer it is that your husband should continue to maintain a healthy distance from your siblings after your death. You can't prevent them from having whatever reaction they choose, considering the level of dysfunction in your family. It's not unusual for survivors to react with anger after a death, and your husband should not take it personally if they do.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter rents a second-floor apartment with her two little girls. The tenant on the first floor is on oxygen and smokes cigarettes. I am concerned about the risk of an explosion that could injure my family upstairs.

My daughter would like to move, but her lease won't be up until January. What should we do? I don't believe she can afford a lawyer unless legal aid is available to her. I find the situation scary.

WORRIED IN OHIO

DEAR WORRIED: I find it scary, too. Has your daughter discussed this with the manager of the building? If she hasn't, she should, and the conversation should be documented. An explosion could harm more neighbors than just her and her children. The smoker is a danger to everyone.

If the manager can't compel the smoker to stop, then your daughter should move because, in a sense, the tenant downstairs is a ticking time bomb, and her children's safety is paramount.

DEAR ABBY: My aunt "Stacey" has what they call salt-and-pepper-colored hair. We have suggested many times that she dye it, but she doesn't want to have to keep up with it. Recently, someone asked her 14-year-old daughter if that was her grandmother!

Aunt Stacey will be coming for a visit soon and we want to surprise her with a hair dye. How should we go about it?

KRISTY IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR KRISTY: Don't do it, or the people who get surprised could be you and whoever else has concocted this hair-brained scheme. Not all women want to color their hair. Some would prefer to avoid the expense, and others become allergic to the hair dye. My advice is to appreciate your aunt for the person she is and forget about trying to change her image.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



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Garfield®



By Jim Davis

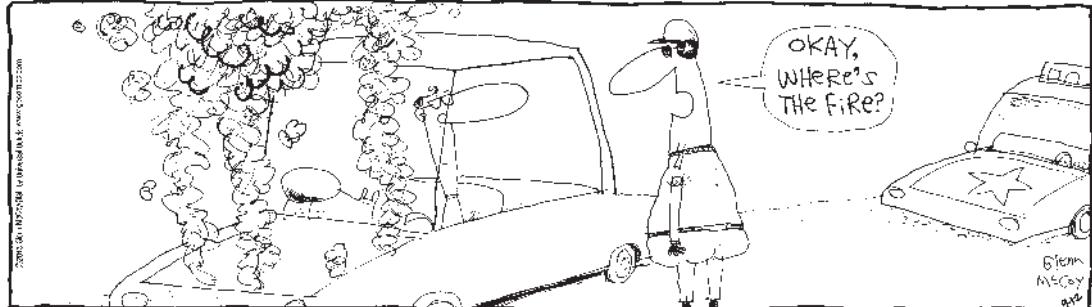
Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	40	Mid-May	41	honoree	42	Remark	43	extra	44	poetically	45	to the	46	audience	47	wrong	48	George	49	Smith-	50	Dropouts	51	Rub the	52	— Louis	53	sonian, for ex.	54	Orange	55	shade	56	named	57	Force unit	58	shaded	59	named	60	for a	61	painter	62	Scarlet	63	named	64	evergreen	65	Force unit	66	Scarlet	67	Dined on	68	Canoe	69	material	70	Scarlet	71	Force 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Buchholz strong in return, Red Sox beat Rays



ST. PETERSBURG, Florida

(AP)—Clay Buchholz allowed three hits over five innings in his first start since early June and the AL East-leading Boston Red Sox beat the Tampa Bay Rays 2-0 on Tuesday night.

Buchholz (10-0), sidelined by a strained neck, hadn't pitched in the majors since beating the Los Angeles Angels on June 8. The right-hander made three rehab starts in the minors.

Jonny Gomes and Jarrod Saltalamacchia both drove in a run for the Red Sox, who extended their lead over second-place Tampa Bay to 8½ games. Craig Breslow, Junichi Tazawa and Koji Uehara finished a four-hitter. Uehara got four outs for his 19th save.

Reigning AL Cy Young Award winner David Price (8-8) lost his third straight start despite giving up just three hits in eight innings. The left-hander struck out nine.

The Rays, just 4-12 since Aug. 25, lead the race for the second AL wild-card spot.

Yankees 7, Orioles 5

In Baltimore, Alfonso Soriano hit two home runs, including a tiebreaking shot in the eighth inning, and New York rallied past Baltimore to end a six-game losing streak at Camden Yards.

Mark Reynolds also homered for the Yankees, who won for the second time in six games to bolster their post-season hopes. New York still trails Tampa Bay, Baltimore and Cleveland in the hunt for the final AL wild-card slot.

Chris Davis hit his major league-leading 49th home run for the Orioles and raised his RBI total to 126. Baltimore led 4-1 in the fifth inning before faltering.

Alex Rodriguez led off the eighth with a double against rookie Kevin Gausman (2-5) and Robinson Cano delivered an RBI single. Soriano followed with a two-run shot to center, his 15th homer in 43 games since New York reacquired him in a July 26 trade with the Chicago Cubs.

Adam Warren (2-2) pitched a perfect seventh and Mariano Rivera got four straight outs for his 650th career save.

Royals 6, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Jeremy Guthrie got a major assist from his defense in pitching six innings, Alcides Escobar hit a rare home run and Kansas City snapped a six-game losing streak in Cleveland to close on the Indians and two others in the cramped wild-card scramble.

Guthrie (14-10) allowed just one run and nine hits, but was helped by three double plays.

Kansas City pulled within three games of a wild-card spot. The Royals also got a



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Clay Buchholz delivers to Tampa Bay Rays' David DeJesus during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla. AP

game closer to the Indians, who dropped to 6-3 in September.

Mike Moustakas hit a two-run double in the sixth off Zach McAllister (7-9), and the won't-go-away Royals won for the 12th time in 17 games.

Luke Hochevar struck out all five batters he faced, and closer Greg Holland worked a perfect ninth for his 41st save.

Angels 12, Blue Jays 6

In Toronto, Mark Trumbo matched a team record with four extra-base hits, including back-to-back home runs with Josh Hamilton, and Chris Iannetta and Erick Aybar also went deep as Los Angeles beat Toronto.

Trumbo had a career-best five hits and became the first player in Angels history to collect five hits and score five runs in the same game. He went 5 for 5 with three doubles and two RBIs as the Angels won for the eighth time in 11 meetings with the Blue Jays.

Jerome Williams pitched five-plus innings to win consecutive starts for the first time since May 26. Williams (7-10) allowed six runs and nine hits.

Anthony Gose hit his first career grand slam for the Blue Jays and Rajai Davis added a solo shot, but it was a rough night for starter Mark Buehrle (11-8), who had won six straight decisions.

Twins 4, Athletics 3

In Minneapolis, Josh Willingham hit two home runs, including a two-run shot in the eighth inning that put Minnesota in front for good against Oakland.

Oswaldo Arcia also homered for the Twins, who snapped Oakland's three-game winning streak and prevented the A's from stretching their two-game lead over Texas in the AL West. Minnesota also spoiled a

solid outing by Jarrod Parker, who tossed six strong innings and stretched his unbeaten streak to 19 starts.

Arcia singled off reliever Sean Doolittle to lead off the eighth. Doolittle struck out Ryan Doumit before being pulled for Ryan Cook (6-4), and Willingham launched a 2-0 pitch an estimated 439 feet into the middle deck for his second multihomer game this season.

Anthony Swarzak (2-2) worked a scoreless eighth on his 28th birthday. Glen Perkins earned his 34th save in 38 chances.

Tigers 9, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Rick Porcello pitched his first career complete game, Prince Fielder homered among his four hits and Detroit snapped a three-game skid by beating Chicago.

Alex Avila added four hits and two RBIs as the Tigers increased their AL Central lead over Cleveland to 5½ games.

Porcello (12-8) scattered seven hits, struck out five and walked one. The 24-year-old right-hander retired 14 straight after Chicago scored its only run in the fourth.

Five of Detroit's runs were unearned thanks to four Chicago errors, including three by third baseman Conor Gillaspie.

White Sox prospect Erik Johnson (0-2) was hurt by shoddy fielding in his second major league start. He lasted 3 2-3 innings, allowing six runs—two earned—on seven hits and three walks.

Chicago, last in the AL Central, has lost 10 of 12.

Astros 13, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Jonathan Villar homered on the first pitch of the game and Houston coasted to a lopsided victory over Seattle.

Villar connected off Joe

Saunders (11-14) for his first career homer. The Astros scored six times in the first three innings to chase Saunders. The left-hander has lost six of his last eight decisions.

Chris Carter and Jose Altuve each had three of the Astros' 17 hits. Houston's 10 extra-base hits were a season high, eclipsing the previous mark of nine—also set against the Mariners.

Altuve and rookie L.J. Hoes both had three RBIs. Jordan Lyles (7-7) held Seattle in check through six innings.

Pirates 5, Rangers 4

In Arlington, Texas, Francisco Liriano pitched six innings for his career-high 16th victory, Andrew McCutchen had three RBI singles and Pittsburgh held on to beat slumping Texas.

A night after victory No. 82 ensured the Pirates' first winning season since 1992, the NL wild-card leaders added a series-clinching victory.

Pittsburgh scored three runs with four consecutive two-out hits in the fifth off rookie Martin Perez (9-4), who had won his previous six starts.

Texas has lost seven of nine but remained two games back in the AL West.

Liriano (16-7) struck out five while allowing one run to become the first Pirates left-hander since John Smiley and Zane Smith in 1991 to win more than 15 games. Liriano has received a decision in each of his 23 starts since signing as a free agent in February.

Mark Melancon worked a shaky ninth for his 13th save in 15 chances. After striking out the first two batters, Melancon gave up four consecutive two-out singles before Adrian Beltre struck out to end it with a runner on third.

Pittsburgh remained a

game behind NL Central-leading St. Louis.

Dodgers 5, Diamondbacks 3

In Los Angeles, pinch-hitter Scott Van Slyke's two-run homer in the bottom of the 11th inning gave the Los Angeles Dodgers a 5-3 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Tuesday night.

Van Slyke lined the homer off Josh Collmenter (4-3) into the lower left field seats, scoring Mark Ellis who singled just ahead of Van Slyke.

It was the Dodgers' fifth consecutive win over the D-backs. They hit six homers, including three by Juan Uribe, in winning the series opener on Monday.

Chris Withrow (1-0) got the victory, striking out four in 1 1-3 innings.

Braves 4, Marlins 3

In Miami, Julio Teheran, working on 10 days' rest, overcame a rough first inning and pitched into the seventh to help the Braves beat the Marlins.

Teheran (12-7) gave up three runs in the first, then none after that, and he left with a 4-3 lead. Craig Kimbrel pitched around a one-out double by Placido Polanco in the ninth for his major league-leading 46th save in 49 chances.

Atlanta went 3 for 16 with runners in scoring position, but Evan Gattis had his third straight two-RBI game.

Braves right fielder Justin Upton left the game in the fourth inning with a bruised right knee after fouling a ball off it. His status is day to day.

Tom Koehler (3-10) allowed four runs in five innings. He's 0-4 in his past seven starts.

Nationals 6, Mets 3

In New York, Jayson Werth kept up his power surge with a home run and two doubles, leading the charging Nationals past the Mets for their fourth straight win.

Jordan Zimmermann (17-8) wound up with his NL-leading 17th victory and Rafael Soriano closed for his 40th save as Washington tries to make a late playoff push.

The Nationals have won six of seven, and have 18 games left this season. They began the day seven games behind Cincinnati for the final NL wild-card spot.

Dillon Gee (11-10) left in the seventh with the Mets down 4-3. He was trying to beat the Nationals for the fifth time this year.

Cardinals 4, Brewers 2

In St. Louis, Matt Holliday's two-run home run in the sixth inning stunned Wily Peralta with the Cardinals' first hit and rookie Shelby Miller blanked the Brewers into the seventh inning.

Matt Carpenter and Matt Adams added RBIs in the seventh and eighth for the NL Central leaders.

The 22-year-old Miller (13-9) emphasized more off-speed deliveries to keep the pitch count down and allowed five hits with four strikeouts and two walks in 6 2-3 innings.

In 6 2-3 innings, Peralta (9-15) was charged with three runs and three hits with seven strikeouts.

Pinch-hitter Logan Schafer hit a two-run homer off Edward Mujica in the ninth.

Cubs 9, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Welington Castillo drove in three runs with two home runs, Donnie Murphy added a two-run shot and even pitcher Edwin Jackson connected as the Cubs rolled to a victory over the suddenly punchless Reds on Tuesday night.

Jackson (8-15) hit his second career home run in the seventh inning on his way to his first win in seven starts since July 31.

The Cubs earned consecutive wins over Cincinnati for the first time since 2011.

Reds starter Tony Cingrani (7-4), in his second start since coming off the disabled list on Thursday, left the game two outs into the second inning with back spasms.

Padres 8, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Jedd Gyorko and Chase Headley each had three hits to back Andrew Cashner's strong pitching in the Padres' victory over the Phillies.

Gyorko, who entered in a 3-for-28 slide, scored three runs and drove in another. Headley added two RBIs for the Padres, who have won four straight and six of seven.

Cashner (9-8) earned his first victory since Aug. 2, throwing 7 2-3 masterful innings while limiting the Phillies to four hits and a walk.

Tyler Cloyd (2-4) was not sharp in his first major league start in three weeks for Philadelphia. The right-hander allowed seven runs and nine hits over four-plus innings.

Rockies 9, Giants 8

In San Francisco, Michael Cuddyer hit a tiebreaking homer leading off the ninth inning to go with his three-run shot, and the Rockies rallied from an early six-run deficit to beat the Giants.

Cuddyer sent a 3-2 pitch from Sergio Romo into the left-center seats for his 20th homer of the season, 10th career multihomer game and second this year. He also connected in Colorado's five-run fifth to spark the comeback.

Hunter Pence produced some impressive slugging himself, hitting a three-run homer in the first, an RBI double in the fourth and a tying, two-run single in the eighth against winner Wilton Lopez (3-4).

Pence matched his career high with six RBIs.

Sergio Romo (4-7) gave up Cuddyer's go-ahead homer.

US clinches World Cup berth, beats Mexico 2-0

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—For more than two hours, the red-white-and-blue-clad crowd stood and sang “Dos a cero! Dos a cero!” over and over and over.

And 2-0 it was.

The United States clinched its seventh straight World Cup appearance, getting second-half goals from Eddie Johnson and Landon Donovan on Tuesday night for the now traditional 2-0 home qualifying win over Mexico.

“It’s become its own monster. People want to come to Columbus and see U.S.-Mexico. It’s almost like the mecca really for us,” goalkeeper Tim Howard said. “You almost feel like it’s our destiny to win here.”

Noisy American fans stood and sang in Columbus Crew Stadium starting 1 1/2 hours before kickoff, and about 1,000 stayed for an hour after the final whistle. The U.S. needed a win or a tie from Honduras against Panama to clinch with two games to spare, and the American supporters watched on the videoboard as the Catrachos held on for a 2-2 draw.

U.S. players crowded around a television in their locker room, and then sprayed bubbly and came back on the field to celebrate with the fans.

“It’s great to do it sooner than later, but to get it against your rival is even sweeter,” American captain Clint Dempsey said.

After withstanding Mexican pressure for the first 20 minutes, the U.S. settled in the match and got the breakthrough in the 49th minute when Johnson outjumped defender Diego Reyes to meet Donovan’s corner kick 8 yards out and head the ball past frozen goalkeeper Jesus Corona.

With Mexican shifting to an offense-minded 3-4-3 formation, the U.S. scored in the 78th following a throw in when Mix Diskerud threaded the ball across the middle. Dempsey got the slightest of touches as he slid into the goalmouth, and Donovan poked the ball in from 2 yards.

“Obviously this is a huge, huge evening for all of us,” U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. “It’s a huge milestone whenever you make it to a World Cup.”

The U.S. (5-2-1) moved into first place in the North and Central American and Caribbean finals with 16 points, one ahead of Costa Rica (4-1-3), which was held to a 1-1 tie at last-place Jamaica and also clinched.

Honduras (3-3-2) is third with 11 points and on track for the region’s final automatic berth for the 32-nation field for Brazil next June. Panama moved ahead of Mexico (both 1-2-5) on goal difference for fourth place, which advances to a playoff against Oceania champion New Zealand.

“This a team that could and should play better,” said Luis Fernando Tena, who replaced Chepo de la Torre as Mexico’s coach following Friday’s 2-1 home loss to Honduras. “It has to take a step forward if we want to make it to the World Cup.”

Following wins over Mexico in qualifiers by identical 2-0 scores at Columbus in 2001, 2005 and 2009, the U.S. Soccer Federation picked the same venue for this year’s match. The capacity crowd of 24,584 taunted the Mexicans with



United States' Landon Donovan celebrates his goal against Mexico during the second half of a World Cup qualifying soccer match Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013, in Columbus, Ohio. AP

chants of “You’re not going to Brazil!”

“Amazing, amazing crowd,” Klinsmann said. “Kind of pushed these guys.”

Fans were so loud during “The Star-Spangled Banner” that anthem singer Kayleigh Schofield was forced to alter her tempo to match that of the crowd.

“I think it really got into Mexico’s head, especially when we scored that first goal. You could see it on Mexico’s face. They were really defeated,” American defender Omar Gonzalez said. “From that point on we really took control of the game.”

Johnson, starting because of Jozy Altidore’s suspension for yellow-card accumulation, nearly scored off Donovan’s cross in the third minute of the second half, but the pass was just ahead of him.

A minute later, the U.S. took just its second corner kick of the match. Jermaine Jones and Johnson both broke in from behind the penalty spot, and Mexico was slow to react as Johnson scored his 12th goal in 21 qualifying appearances. He was mobbed by teammates near the U.S. bench as fans set off a smoke bomb.

“We’ve got some good height in the box, and

this time I wanted to make sure I kept it down enough,” Johnson said. “I was very fortunate it went in.”

Donovan, his right eye squinting because of conjunctivitis, increased his U.S.-record goals total to 57, set off a nonstop singalong for the closing minutes of the match.

“You see it when we came in the stadium. It was rockin’ already,” Donovan said. “That’s a real atmosphere. That’s what we face when we go away, and it’s nice that other teams have to face it when they come here.”

And Mexico now has a tough challenge, hosting Panama on Oct. 11 before closing four days later at Costa Rica.

“They looked relatively timid and shy throughout. I’ve never seen a Mexico team look that way,” Donovan said.

Dealing with an injury to midfielder Michael Bradley and yellow-card suspensions that also included defender Matt Besler and midfielder Geoff Cameron, Klinsmann had to make several changes from Friday’s 3-1 loss at Costa Rica - which ended the Americans’ team-record 12-game winning streak.

Fabian Johnson shifted from midfield to the back line, and Clarence Goodson was among four new starters, joined by midfielders Kyle Beckerman and Alejandro Bedoya, and Eddie Johnson. Fabian Johnson strained his left hamstring and was replaced by Michael Parkhurst for the start of the second half.

Mexico dominated the first 20 minutes of the opening half and the last five, forcing Howard to make several sprawling saves.

“Once we weathered that storm, Mexico didn’t have much in the second half,” Gonzalez said.

Now the Americans can take it easy in the final two qualifiers, against Jamaica on Oct. 11 at Kansas City, Kan., and at Panama four days later. Exhibitions are likely at Scotland and Austria in November.

Klinsmann won the World Cup as a player with Germany in 1990 and coached his native country to the 2006 semifinals. He’s lived in California for 15 years and understands the accomplishment.

As he spoke during his postgame news conference, he had a Starbucks cup in front of him, presumably filled with champagne.

“It’s not Aquafina,” he said, laughing.

because I don’t think that was worthy of being fined \$100,000.”

Suh has also been fined in previous seasons for roughing up quarterbacks Andy Dalton, Jay Cutler and Jake Delhomme.

“He plays with such aggression,” Lions center Dominic Raiola said. “He really plays hard, and plays to the whistle every play.”

When asked what he would think if a player with a track record rolled up on his knees and was fined \$100,000, Raiola was unsure.

“I don’t know if he really went down,” Raiola said. “I think he kind of hit him on the hip and fell ... That’s out of my hands.”

Suh was named a defensive captain for the Lions this season, and they’re hoping his fourth year as a pro will be a productive one. Raiola said Suh’s talk with the team Tuesday was a good step.

“That’s all part of his leadership role this year,” Raiola said. “We respect that, and I’m just glad we’re not losing him for any games.”

Suh slapped with \$100K fine for illegal block



DETROIT (AP)—Ndamukong Suh’s latest controversial play drew a hefty fine.

The Detroit defensive tackle was docked \$100,000 by the NFL for his illegal low block on Minnesota center John Sullivan in the Lions’ season-opening victory Sunday. Suh hit Sullivan during an interception return by Detroit linebacker DeAndre Levy, and the penalty negated what would have been a touchdown.

NFL spokesman Randall Liu said Tuesday that vice president of football operations Merton Hanks notified Suh of the fine. Suh was not in the locker room at Detroit’s practice facility when it was open to reporters Tuesday. A text message was sent to him seeking comment.

Suh said Sunday he wasn’t going after Sullivan’s knees, adding that the two had discussed the play at halftime. Detroit players said Suh apologized to the team Tuesday.

“He just basically said that he can’t make those types of mistakes—he can’t put us in a position where we’ve got to battle back from mistakes like that,” wide receiver Nate Burleson said. “He also said, with him having a target, and people looking for him, they’re looking at us in the same light. So as a team we’ve got to understand that the microscope is on us.”

It’s believed to be the largest fine for an NFL player for an on-field violation, although suspensions without pay can result in bigger financial hits.

The NFL fined Pittsburgh linebacker James

Harrison \$75,000 for a 2010 hit on Cleveland wide receiver Mohamed Massaquoi, although that was later reduced to \$50,000. Like Harrison, Suh has a history of fines. The NFL fined Suh \$30,000 last year for unnecessary roughness when he kicked Houston quarterback Matt Schaub in the groin area. He was suspended two games in 2011 after stomping on Green Bay’s Evan Dietrich-Smith.

Burleson was taken aback when told of Suh’s fine.

“Oh, baby! For real? Are you serious? A hundred stacks?” Burleson said. “That’s one of the biggest I’ve heard of, but when you have a guy who people look at as quote-unquote dirty, a play that might not be as dirty could be deemed as such, and you’re going to have to deal with the consequences. So it’s tough. I hope he appeals it,

MARPAC Inc. hosts golf tourney to celebrate 40 years of service to CNMI



Marianas Pacific Distributors, MARPAC Inc., celebrates their 40th anniversary with a golf tournament to be held at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort on Sept. 14.

The \$100 fee (single) and \$175 (team of two) includes green fee, lunch buffet and snack, dinner banquet, and free flowing ice-cold beverages. The golf tournament also features exciting raffle prizes to be drawn including a \$40,000 hole-in-one, brand new car, and many more.

The 40th Anniversary Golf Tournament is limited to the first 144 players. Interested players/teams must fill out the registration form and submit with payment by Sept. 12, 2013 at MARPAC Inc.

"To celebrate 40 years of experience and dedication, we wanted to share our continued success with our loyal industry and community partners. We look forward to strengthening the foundation of the partnerships we've built over the years," notes Guy F. Pudney, MARPAC Inc. resident manager and 40th anniversary chairman.

As another way of giving back and expressing our gratitude to our loyal customers, MARPAC Inc. and Budweiser



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MARPAC Inc. resident manager and 40th anniversary chair Guy F. Pudney poses with Delta Airlines sales and marketing Chris Concepcion after receiving a donation from the carrier.

is also having the "40 Days of Giveaways." Residents 21 and over are encouraged to purchase a 12-pack or bucket of Bud or Bud Light for a chance to win daily prize and cash giveaways

for 40 days like Bud gears, hotel stays, roundtrip tickets to Guam or Manila, \$4,000 cash grand prize, and many more.

Delta Airlines also donated a roundtrip ticket to Japan to show

their support and help celebrate MARPAC's 40th anniversary.

For more details, contact Michelle Villacrusis at 234-7113 or mvillacrusis@marpacspn.com. (PR)

LEINA

From Page 28

73 to beat the record of fellow ThunderWolves Dominique Dinallo (74) and place fourth out of more than 70 players.

Kim's 73 was later eclipsed by the 72 of teammate Michaela Breit and together with the 78 and 82 of Julie Sanchez and Dinallo, respectively, CSU-Pueblo clung to a one-stroke lead against West

Texas A&M, 305-306.

Though her record was quickly shattered by her teammate and she was three shots behind Round 1 leader Judy Papenfus (70) of West Texas A&M, Kim, in a message to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said she did not lose hope going into the second and final round played last Sunday (Monday on Saipan).

"After the first round, I was still feeling confident. I still had a lot of fight in me to win the

tournament," the CSU-Pueblo prized-find golfer said.

"Our new coach, Rick (Ewing), came up to me before the second round started and said '69?' I was a little confused at first and said, 'what?' He goes, 'are you going to shoot 69?' I said, 'sure' without really thinking about it," the sophomore added.

Kim went on to break the school mark anew, as she indeed carded an impressive 3-under par 69, highlighted by

three birdies and 15 pars. She clinched the new school record (in a single game) with a par on the 158-yard par 3 hole No. 14.

"On hole No. 14, I hit my 6 iron straight to the sand trap. I was thinking that I needed to get that up and down to save par. As soon as that ball landed about 6 feet by the hole I knew I had a chance. Right when that ball rolled in, I was completely relieved and excited to finish the round," said Kim, who went

division today. At 5:30pm, Proa/Mariana Resort suits up against the Rollers while the defending champions Sonics square off against the Kagman Cougars at 6:30pm.

The Sonics hold a 5-1 record in the eight-team field behind the undefeated S.J. Ol'Aces, who has a 6-0 slate and will play its last game this

Friday against the Rebelholics (1-5). Kagman and Proa are tied for third with similar 4-2 slates, while the Rollers own a 2-4 mark. Completing the field are the Ol'Aces (1-4) and the COPSSA Warriors (0-5).

The U19 division is expected to wrap up the regular season this weekend and the playoff round will start on Monday.

KFC

From Page 28

With DYS falling to the No. 3 spot, it has to play in the first round of the playoffs this Saturday against the last place DA Projects (0-5). The DYS-DA Projects tiff is set for 1pm with the winner challenging

the Ol'Aces in the first semis match on Monday (Sept. 16) at 4pm. In the second game this Saturday at 2pm, the fourth-ranked Rollers (2-3) will face fifth placer Rebelholics (1-4) with the victor colliding against KFC/Taco Bell on Monday at 5pm.

Meanwhile, two make-up games will be played in the U19

fifth with an average of .360 after going 9-for-25.

The Padres had three more players making it to the batting leaderboard, matching the Yankees' feat, while the Giants had two more, and the Braves had one. The Padres' Lancaster Secharmidal is in ninth place with his .316 average off a 6-for-19 batting performance, while his younger brother Verlance and Kainoa Wanket are ranked 11th and 13th, respectively, after post-

ing .316 (6-for-19) and .263 (5-for-19).

M.J. Sakisat is the highest-ranked Yankees slugger in the batting race with his .333 average (6-for-18) good for seventh spot. Daron Jones is next at No. 10, as he earned a batting average of .292 after going 7-for-14, while Roke Tenorio went 5-for-19 (.263) for a share of the No. 13 to No. 15 place. Frankie Lieto is tied with Roke Tenorio and Wanket is the lone Braves player to en-

ter the batting leaderboard. Leaders in other statistics will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Friday issue.

Meanwhile, the first three games in the Triple A league this week were rescheduled due to rain, leaving the Padres and the Braves in a standoff for the top spot with their similar 6-1 records. The Giants are in close second with a 5-2 slate, followed by the Yankees (3-4), the Tigers (2-5), Dodgers (1-5), and the Cardinals (0-5).

DELA CRUZ

From Page 28

pion and MVP of the inaugural season, Kaipat, and Tenorio were the only three players to record a batting average of at least .500 after last Saturday's matches. The Dodgers' Craig Aguon averaged .444 off his 8-for-18 performance at bat to rank No. 4, while the Padres' Kier Agda and the Giants' Frank Nakamura are tied for

USOC looking at limited number of bid candidates

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP)—The newest American member of the IOC believes there are only a few U.S. cities that could realistically contend for the 2024 Olympics if the country decides to move forward with a bid next year.

"I think it's got to be a city that is compelling to people around the world, that resonates with all of the IOC membership," U.S. Olympic Committee chairman Larry Probst said Tuesday. "That's not a long list of cities, realistically."

Moments after being sworn in Tuesday as a member of the International Olympic Committee, Probst said the issue will be discussed by the USOC at its meetings in December and a timetable on the process to select the possible bid city could be created.

In addition to Probst's election, the U.S. received a big boost when Anita DeFrantz was elevated to the IOC's policy-making executive board.

DeFrantz will work closely with new IOC President Thomas Bach, who succeeds Jacques Rogge. Bach said he encouraged a possible U.S. bid.

Probst said he welcomed Bach's "enthusiasm for a bid from the United States," but said the USOC needs to be "very thoughtful" about whether to bid.

"First step is we have to decide that we are going to move forward and we have to go

through a process of which city gives us the best chance," he said.

The U.S. hasn't held the Summer Games since Atlanta in 1996 and last hosted the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City in 2002. Washington, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Tulsa, Okla., are some of the cities that have expressed interest in 2024.

San Diego wants to host a cross-border Olympics with Mexican neighbor Tijuana. Other potential 2024 contenders from around the world include Paris, Rome, and Doha, Qatar.

Probst said the USOC board will be updated about the level of interest received from the various cities.

"If we decide to move forward, we will start putting together specific steps and a specific timetable to engage with the various cities that might be interested and keep moving forward from there," he said.

Probst said that in addition to a strong technical bid and a powerful bid leader, several other elements have to be in place for a successful bid. Chicago bid for the 2016 Games but was eliminated in the first round of voting, losing to Madrid and eventual winner Rio de Janeiro. New York mounted a failed bid for the 2012 Games that went to London.

"We are going to make sure we can check all those boxes if we decide we can move forward," Probst said.

University came in at third with its 616, followed by Adams State University (632) and Colorado Mesa University (644).

With her victory last weekend, Kim lived up to expectations, as she was earlier chosen as RMAC Preseason Golfer of the Year.

"It felt great setting a new school record, it gives me and all my teammates a goal (beat the record) in our upcoming tournaments," said Kim, who will lead the ThunderWolves in their second tournament on Sept. 16 and 17 at Black Hill State in Spearfish, South Dakota.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	88	58	.603	—
Tampa Bay	78	65	.545	8½
Baltimore	77	67	.535	10
New York	77	68	.531	10½
Toronto	67	77	.465	20

Central Division

Detroit	83	62	.572	—
Cleveland	77	67	.535	5½
Kansas City	76	69	.524	7
Minnesota	63	80	.441	19
Chicago	58	86	.403	24½

West Division

Oakland	83	61	.576	—
Texas	81	63	.563	2
Los Angeles	68	76	.472	15
Seattle	65	80	.448	18½
Houston	49	96	.338	34½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	87	57	.604	—
Washington	75	69	.521	12
Philadelphia	66	78	.458	21
New York	64	79	.448	22½
Miami	53	90	.371	33½

Central Division

St. Louis	84	60	.583	—
Pittsburgh	83	61	.576	1
Cincinnati	82	64	.562	3
Milwaukee	62	81	.434	21½
Chicago	62	82	.431	22

West Division

Los Angeles	85	59	.590	—
Arizona	72	72	.500	13
San Diego	66	77	.462	18½
Colorado				

Saipan Soccer School, TSL Foundation Donation

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Above left, MP United representatives pose with the donated balls and bags.

Above, Shirley's FC's Puy Macario, fourth from left, receives the donation.

Left, Saipan Soccer School staff and TSL Foundation officials pose with Paire Football Club representatives during the donation (balls and bags) turnover ceremony early this month at Kanoa Resort.



Tan Holdings FC representatives are all smiles after getting the donation.



Matansa FC's Elna Curate, fourth left, and Joven Cruz, fifth left, pose with the donated balls and bags.



Tinian coaches attend the donation presentation.



Representatives of various clubs pose with Saipan Soccer School staff and TSL Foundation officials for a group photo.



TSL Foundation manager Maggie Sablan addresses the representatives of various clubs.



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Johann Noetzel, left applauds after TSL Foundation and Saipan Soccer School announced their donation package to local clubs.



Buchholz strong in return, Red Sox beat Rays

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US clinches World Cup berth, beats Mexico 2-0

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Leina shoots 69, sets school record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Started with a bang," CNMI golfer Leina Kim wrote on her Facebook wall.

She did, without a doubt. Kim kicked off the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference with record-breaking scores at the Desert Hawk Golf Course in Pueblo West, Colorado last weekend. The RMAC



Rookie and Golfer of the Year (2012-2013 season) finished the opening round of the first tournament of RMAC, a collegiate athletic conference that participates in NCAA Division II, with a 1-over par

See LEINA on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Ol'Aces' K.J. Nabors drives against three DYS defenders during the third quarter of their game in the U15 division of the Rotary caging late last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

KFC, Ol'Aces gain outright semis berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

KFC/Taco Bell and the Ol'Aces were awarded the automatic semis tickets in the U15 division of the 22nd Annual Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League after prevailing in a tiebreak.

The Ol'Aces, KFC/Taco Bell, and Division of Youth Services finished the round-robin regular season with identical 4-1 records to force a

See KFC on Page 26



Leina Kim shows her second round record score after completing the first Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference tournament of the season last weekend at the Desert Hawk Golf Course in Pueblo West, Colorado.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dela Cruz sneaks into top of batting race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 The batting race in the 2nd Annual DYS/Triple A Youth Baseball League has a new leader in the Tigers' Ricardo Dela Cruz.

Dela Cruz moved on top of the leaderboard after last Saturday's games at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The Tigers slugger went 2-for-2 in their 1-6 loss to the Giants last Saturday, to climb up from third to first in the batting race, slipping past the Padres' Khob-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Tigers' Ricardo Dela Cruz waits for the pitch during a game against the Braves in the 2nd Annual DYS/Triple A Youth Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield early this month.

by Kaipat and Patrick Tenorio. In seven games, Dela Cruz was 10-for-18 at bat for an average of .556, while Kaipat and Tenorio both went 11-for-22 for an average of .500.

Kaipat, who led the league in batting in the first three weeks, slid to second, as he went 0-for-3 in the Padres 4-9 loss to the Yankees last Saturday. Tenorio stayed in second place, but missed an opportunity to dislodge his teammate from the top spot, as he only hit 2-for-4 against the Yankees last weekend.

Dela Cruz, the batting champion **See DELA CRUZ on Page 26**